

Beirut airport expected to reopen

BEIRUT (R) — The guns fell silent in central Lebanon Friday and officials prepared to reopen Beirut airport after a new peace agreement was announced by opposition leaders. Shelling and sniping died away during the afternoon in the traditional trouble spots — the Shouf mountains, Beirut's southern suburbs, the airport area and Kharrub province farther south. The airport had been closed for 16 days due to heavy shelling of Lebanese army positions in the area by Druze militia gunners in the hills a few hundred metres to the east and southeast. Airport officials said they expected flights to resume within a few hours. Workmen were busy clearing the runways, airport employees were called in to prepare the terminal, and the Lebanese army tightened security on approach roads.

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Gemayel in Libya to meet Qadhafi

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel arrived in the Libyan capital of Tripoli Friday, the Libyan news agency JANA reported. The agency, monitored in Beirut, gave no further details. State-run Beirut Radio said Mr. Gemayel was making the unexpected visit to Libya after receiving the invitation of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. It said Mr. Gemayel would leave for an undisclosed destination after "quick consultations" with Col. Qadhafi. Mr. Gemayel arrived in Tripoli from Morocco where he held talks with King Hassan II. The Lebanese president concluded a visit to Britain Thursday and flew to Rabat.

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Agent sends good wishes to Bahrain

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Regent, sent a congratulatory message to the emir of Bahrain Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, on the occasion of his country's independence day, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. In his cable, Prince Hassan wished Sheikh Isa and his family the Bahraini people the realization of their aspirations of prosperity and progress.

Egyptian minister arrives Tuesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian Economy Minister Mustafa Al Sa'idi arrived in Amman Tuesday to hold talks with Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour on issues of mutual concern. Al Sa'idi, who is heading a 12-member delegation, including prominent bankers, director of the economic department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the director of the Customs Department, the newspaper said. Dr. Sa'idi, who will meet senior Jordanian officials, carries a message from His Majesty King Hussein from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Al Sa'idi is in Amman.

Israel, Egypt to get free U.S. aid

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has agreed to give Israel and Egypt more than \$1 billion in free military aid in 1985, Egyptian administration officials said Friday. White House spokesman Larry Speakes said there could be more emphasis on grants to the U.S. military aid programme for Israel but declined to provide specific figures. If Congress approves, Israel will receive \$4 billion and Egypt \$1.1 billion, possibly more.

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U.S. envoy, Gromyko discuss Mideast

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hartman called on Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Thursday to discuss the situation in the Middle East where the Kremlin has heavily criticised American involvement. A U.S. spokesman said Mr. Hartman and Mr. Gromyko met for an hour and a half, but he was unable to provide details.

Elizabeth should visit Israel, say U.K. Jews

LONDON (R) — Leaders of Britain's Jews said Friday Queen Elizabeth should visit Israel if she is ahead with a planned visit to Jordan next March. The board of trustees of British Jews said in a press release it had first made the suggestion at a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe last week. The queen is never visited Israel.

J.N. urges weapons freeze

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. General Assembly called yesterday for a freeze on nuclear weapons and condemned nuclear war as "the most monstrous crime."

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Progress is difficult without Palestinian representation and Soviet cooperation, King tells Europarlament

Hussein: Israeli rejectionism, Arab disunity and U.S. reluctance to act jeopardise peace efforts

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

STRASBOURG — Israel's rejectionist policy and the current disarray in Arab ranks coupled with U.S. reluctance to act have jeopardised Middle East peace efforts, His Majesty King Hussein said Thursday.

The King, who was addressing the European Parliament here, said repeated failures to tackle the Palestinian problem, the crux of the Middle East conflict, have led to the deteriorating situation in the region. The King also said that the recently announced U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance agreement has reinforced the view that Washington condones Israeli actions.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and no progress in Middle East peace efforts could be made without PLO's representation in such efforts, the King said. The Soviet Union could not be simply ignored in Middle East peace efforts and the superpower should be included in the peace process, the King said.

Following is the full text of the King's speech:

During this tense and critical phase in superpower relations, while Europe has been preoccupied with the related issues of deployment of nuclear warheads, menacing clouds of unprecedented tension have gathered over the Middle East. A new conflagration in the eastern Mediterranean compounded by war in the Gulf, would threaten not only the fragile peace of the Middle East, but would pose a threat to the security of Europe and the

whole world. The Arab World, as you well know, straddles two continents — Asia and Africa — and looks out on oceans, seas and vital universal roots of communications. It is an area which is abundant with natural resources, vital to mankind. The country which I have the honour to have served for the greater part of my life, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is part of the greater Arab Nation.

The Arab and Hashemite struggle throughout history has been one and the same. I am a proud descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, of the House of Hashim, of the tribe of Quraysh, the oldest and most eminent family in Arabia. I am the grandson of Al Hussein Ibn Ali, the chosen leader of the Great Arab Revolt, often known as the Great Arab Revival, which started at the beginning of this century. I am the grandson of Abdullah, the founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Throughout my life I have felt, and will continue to feel, humbled before the example to the honourable and just cause of the Arabs — to their sacred right to live in freedom, dignity and peace.

The root cause of instability and danger in our area is the unresolved Arab-Israeli conflict and the yet unending plight of the people of Palestine. Then my credentials for speaking to you on this problem stem from the fact that of

all the Arabs, the Jordanians are those most intimately associated with the Palestinian people. As a Hashemite, my family's association with Palestine and Palestinians is even deeper in history than that of the present. The Arab city of Gaza, under Israeli occupation since 1967, known through history as the "Gaza of Hashim", is the resting place of the founder of the house to which the Prophet Muhammad was born.

Hussein (Ibn Ali), my great grandfather, leader of the Great Arab Revolt, who never compromised Arab or Palestinian rights, lies in his final resting place close to the Dome of the Rock in the holy city of Jerusalem, and to the Aqsa Mosque where I once stood by my grandfather before he fell to an assassin's bullet, have devoted his life to the service of the Arab people and the defence of Palestinian rights.

Jordan is the land of a courageous and proud people who have never bent before adversity. They have striven to set themselves a positive example to others through clarity of vision, courage and dedication and have built, despite huge obstacles and an uncertain future for our entire area and all who live in it, a modern stable oasis of peace and harmony along Israel occupied Arab territories.

My country has committed itself to the defence of Arab freedom, security, stability and the right to progress in the entire Arab World.

Cradle of civilisation

Finally, Jordan is the cradle of civilisation, where in an area and a world of intolerance, a people, believers in one God, live in peace and total harmony as members of one family. As a Muslim, I know

that my faith reveres all monotheistic religions. It completes God's message to mankind to live together in friendship and dignity, at a time when Islam, Christianity and Judaism, in many parts of the world, present an image which is totally alien to the spirit in which they were meant — the teachings of God in terms of tolerance and mutual respect.

Our faith illuminates our path as it has always done and ensures the implementation of God's will of earth. It is thus that we are against all divisive political movements tearing people apart. The example of Lebanon must serve as a warning to us all. It must not be allowed to be repeated elsewhere.

We have availed our national duty and obligations in an imposed and unjust war against Iraq. Although we have not hesitated to support Iraq, we look for the earliest end to the costly and menacing war. Iraq on its part has responded positively to every initiative to bring hostilities to a conclusion. The dispute over the demarcation of the border must be settled according to international laws and conventions and known historical rights. Relations between Iran and Iraq, and all their neighbours, must be based on the solid foundations of mutual respect for the independence and territorial integrity and non-interference in the domestic affairs of each other.

As in the tragic case of Lebanon, nothing is more evil, nor more sinister, than the veiled attempts to fragment the social fabric of Iraq which have failed before the unity of its people. Such attempts are clearly directed towards weakening, fragmenting and eventually destroying the structure of the Arab states beyond Iraq. We will thus continue to support Iraq

in this war. Being waged in the name of faith, while its objectives are as alien to faith and the teachings of God as they are divisive and destructive.

The current deterioration in the Middle East situation is the result of many divergent political factors. Chief among these is the repeated failure to tackle the question of Palestine, the root cause of the Middle East problem.

For too long it has been allowed to fester and poison the dynamics of domestic politics not only in the Arab states but in Israel as well. The denial of Palestinian legitimate rights has triggered off a fresh wave of extremist politics which could undermine the social tranquility of other states in the region, just as it has destroyed the structure of Lebanese society.

Palestinian-Jordanian links

Our relations with Palestine as a country, and the Palestinians as a people, are deep and long. The long chain of historical, cultural, economic and political linkages between the two banks of Jordan cannot be easily broken or abandoned. It has been attested to by the resolution of the Palestine National Council in February 1983 to move towards a confederation between the occupied territories and Jordan. For many reasons there is little doubt in anyone's mind that Jordan has been a natural choice as a partner in working towards the determination of their future.

The unity of the two banks of the Jordan promulgated in 1950, was based on self-determination and the expression of free will. The constitution of 1951 stipulated unreservedly that the unification of the two banks would not prejudice the final outcome of a settlement of the Palestine ques-

tion. In the meantime, we have remained conscious of the fact that Palestinian national rights would not be forsaken. Those were the principles that guided our action then, and remain our guidelines for the future.

It is within this context that both Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation have proposed that the occupied West Bank and Gaza be linked in a form of confederation with Jordan. This common understanding would have made peace negotiations possible but for three major considerations:

The first is Israel's rejectionist policy and its adamant refusal to implement provisions of international law and United Nations resolutions. Since its inception, Israel has charted a deliberate course to spoil every peace plan which could have led to a just settlement of the Palestinian question.

Israeli leaders have waged a constant and relentless war, deploying their enormous military might to sap the national will of the Palestinian people. The purpose is to alter the Arab character of their homeland. War, followed by creeping annexation have become the hallmarks of Israeli expansionist policies. It started with Jerusalem, it was followed by the Golan Heights. Claims are staked for the West Bank and Gaza, no doubt. And if permitted, southern Lebanon will become the "northern bank" of Jordan, as Israeli forces have sealed off an important and integral part of Lebanon's national territory. Not even Egypt, an Arab state which has concluded a peace treaty, has escaped Israel's insatiable appetite for territorial expansion as the issue of still occupied Egyptian

Taba District remains unresolved. Israel seems to be encouraged in its expansionist quest by the American reluctance to abide clearly by a fundamental principle of international law which makes the acquisition of territory by force illegal.

The second is the prevailing disarray in Arab ranks and the absence of a pan-Arab consensus. The charter of the Arab League which has governed all joint Arab endeavours including the summit activities, has been based on the concept of the need for total consensus on all issues — a crippling approach which the majority amongst us are determined to urgently rectify.

However, more crucial than either of these two considerations is the reluctance of the United States to act decisively and promptly on its underlining of peace making.

This feature of American policy making has often been interpreted as condemnation of Israeli action, whether in the occupied territories or in Lebanon. Recently this view has been reinforced by the more significant reconstitution of the so-called strategic co-operation and alliance between the United States and Israel whereby American funding for further Israeli settlements will be available, contrary to the letter and spirit of President Reagan's own peace proposals. These factors have allowed Israel to pursue its expansionist policy unhindered. They have all but totally destroyed United States credibility and allowed the spectre of superpower polarisation to loom menacingly over the area. Finally, they permitted Arab radicals and unrepresentative elements within the PLO to challenge the legitimate

(Continued on page 3)

Ships leave Greece to pick up PLO men

ATHENS (R) — The first of five ships due to evacuate embattled Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his men from Lebanon on Monday left Friday and the rest of the fleet was expected to follow soon, harbour sources said. The 5,000-ton Vergina, procured by the government on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), had left from the Athens port of Piraeus, they said.

All five passenger vessels will be in the Lebanese port of Tripoli by Monday for Mr. Arafat, his 4,000 men and their families to start boarding at first light, government spokesman Dimitrios Maroudas added.

Asked about press reports that Israel had not guaranteed not to attack the vessels, Mr. Maroudas said: "We have all the necessary guarantees." He said the ships, which are setting out under the Greek flag, may also be issued with United Nations flags after they pick up the guerrillas to take them to Tunis or North Yemen.

France to provide protection

France will provide protection for the evacuation of Mr. Arafat and his men from Tripoli, French state radio said Thursday. The radio, quoting Palestinian sources, said French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson had sent Mr. Arafat a message informing him of the French government's decision.

It said the French navy was expected to send two frigates currently cruising off Lebanon in the Mediterranean with the aircraft carrier Clemenceau to escort the Greek vessels.

Israelis continue attacks

Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats pounded Palestinian targets Thursday in northern Lebanon for the fourth time in a week. Israeli naval units carried out their first attack on the beleaguered Arafat forces last Friday and followed this up with two more raids on Tuesday.

Israel refuses to pledge not to attack PLO flotilla

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — American special envoy Donald Rumsfeld held private talks with Israeli leaders Friday but Israel made no commitment on the evacuation of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his guerrillas from Lebanon, a senior Israeli official said.

MNF must keep out of internal Lebanese affairs, says Junblatt

By Ibrahim Noori
Reuters

AMMAN — Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt said Friday the Multi-National Force (MNF) in Lebanon should keep out of Lebanese internal affairs or leave the country.

"The force has become aggressive. It should either redefine its role and keep out of internal affairs or it should leave Lebanon," he told Reuters.

Mr. Junblatt's remarks came after the U.S. battleship New Jersey shelled the Druze stronghold of Sheikfat.

Hussein arrives in London

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in London Friday on a private visit to the United Kingdom during which he is scheduled to meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported from London.

The King had left Strasbourg after addressing the European Parliament Thursday on the latest developments in the Middle East situation and obstacles hindering the establishment of peace in the region. In his address, the King called for an active European role for reducing tensions between the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

The King's speech met great official attention and concern at the European level, and was a leading event in European media coverage. After one hour from the speech, the European Parliament took a decision to send a representative mission to the Middle East to tour a number of Middle East countries headed by its president.

Prophet's birthday falls today

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan along with the Arab and Muslim worlds Saturday celebrates the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's birth. On the holy occasion, the Royal Court received congratulatory cables addressed to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, from Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Tarawneh, National Consultative Council Speaker Sulaiman Arar and senior Jordanian civil and military officials.

Under the patronage of King Hussein, a religious festival for celebrating the occasion will be held at Al Hussein Sports City

Kuwait attacker identified as pro-Iran Iraqi rebel

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti newspapers Friday identified the suicide truck driver killed in a bomb attack on the U.S. embassy last Monday as an Iraqi.

An Iraqi embassy spokesman, in a statement issued to reporters, said the Iraqi named by the papers as Ra'ad Musten Ageel had faced a death sentence in Baghdad for criminal activities. The spokesman said Ageel, 25, had been a member of the outlawed Muslim fundamentalist "Iranian Dawa Group" in the Iraqi capital and a "staunch supporter of Iran's policies."

He said Ageel's brother Sae'ed had been executed in May 1981 on similar criminal charges. The Kuwaiti authorities, meanwhile, said investigations into attacks had been completed and would be presented to the cabinet on Sunday before being made public.

They declined to give any details.

The authorities have given the official death toll as four — three at the U.S. embassy and one at the airport. U.S. Charge d'Affaires Philip Griffin subsequently said two more bodies had been found in embassy wreckage.

The attacks, in which over 60 people were injured, had been directed against the U.S. and French embassies, the airport, an American residential compound, a government office and a vital industrial complex south of the city. Another bomb outside a passport office had been defused.

Tight security measures remain in force at the airport, with some airlines reporting delays of up to two hours while stringent checks are made on Arab nationals leaving the country.

U.N. clarifies position on resettlement plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The international press has recently reported that the Israeli authorities are considering a plan drawn up by a committee chaired by minister without portfolio Mordechai Ben Porat for the resettlement of Palestinian refugees living in camps in the West Bank.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has not been associated with the development of the Israeli plan, and does not envisage being involved in any way in its execution, an UNRWA statement released here on Friday said.

It is, however, appropriate that UNRWA should clarify its position with regard to the plan, for the benefit both of governments and of the Palestine refugees, the statement, issued by the agency's head office in Vienna, added.

The agency certainly does not oppose measures voluntarily accepted by the refugees which are

intended to improve their living conditions. On the other hand, it would strongly object to any attempt to coerce refugees into compliance with any particular scheme.

The agency has not yet seen the text of the plan. However, it is understood that the resettlement proposal may resemble the process that has been under way for some years in the Gaza Strip, whereby refugees are invited to buy plots of land or housing developed

by the Israeli authorities outside the established camps. The camps shelters thus vacated are demolished.

In the West Bank only about a quarter of the refugees registered with UNRWA live in camps. The remaining 75 per cent are scattered in towns and villages.

The United Nations General Assembly is expected to extend UNRWA's mandate for a further three years, to June 1987.

Trudeau fails to convince Reagan about superpower summit, page 8

Iraq continues air raids on 'selected' Iran towns

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its jets had attacked "selected targets" in the southwest Iranian city of Ilam and the border town of Dehloran Thursday afternoon.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military spokesman as saying the raids were further retaliation for Monday's wave of bombings in Kuwait.

Iraq accused Iran of being behind the Kuwait attacks, in which at least six people were killed. Tehran has denied any involvement.

The latest raids follow Iraqi missile and air attacks on five Iranian towns Wednesday in which Iran has said 29 people were known to have died, with more than 300 injured.

The Iraqi spokesman said the raids were also in retaliation for Iran's insistence on prolonging the three-year-old war and its rejection of international peace initiatives.

They also demonstrated Iraq's capability to carry out its fair reaction against the criminal and aggressive acts against our people and the Arab Nation," the agency quoted him as saying.

The spokesman said the jets had scored "direct and effective hits," and had all returned to base safely.

Iran confirms attack

Iran confirmed that Iraqi jets had raided Ilam and Dehloran, injuring at least 10 people.

The national news agency IRNA said all the injuries were in Ilam.

Iran said 24 people died and more than 300 were injured in the five towns Wednesday and denied involvement in the Kuwait bombings.

Focus on Stockholm meeting

"But he could mean anything from next month to next year," one diplomat said. The absence of any functioning, major arms reduction forum now east the spotlight on a European security conference opening in Stockholm in January, he added.

A Warsaw Pact spokesman in Vienna said a date for resuming

MIDDLE EAST

Evacuation of besieged Christian Lebanese refugees under way

BEIRUT (R) — About 500 Lebanese Christian refugees left the besieged town of Deir Al-Qamar in Red Cross buses Friday in the second stage of an evacuation, an official at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

More than 2,000 Christian fighters and about 500 civilians left Thursday in the first phase of the evacuation after Druze militiamen lifted their siege to allow the Christians to spend Christmas and the new year with their families. The Druze have trapped some 10,000 refugees along with up to 2,500 fighters of the right-wing Falangist "Lebanese Forces" for three months in Deir Al-Qamar, which normally holds 5,000 residents. The Christian fighters left Thursday under Israeli escort and 500 civilians left on 12 Red Cross buses, arriving in east Beirut to a tearful but joyful welcome. The Red Cross estimated it would have to transport up to

The Voice of Lebanon, radio station of the Falangist rightists, said 15 people were injured in the clashes.

A statement from the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), the political arm of the Druze militias, said the Falangist fighters provoked the people of Kfar Him by wearing military uniforms, flying Falangist Party flags and displaying pictures of assassinated Falangist leader Bashir Gemayel. "In such circumstances it was only natural that the villagers should react, so they gathered together and attacked the vehicles," the statement said.

It added that they set fire to the trucks and destroyed heavy weapons the Falangist fighters were trying to smuggle out of the town.

If such "provocative acts" continued the Druze would call off the evacuation process, it said. But all the fighters have now left and the Druze statement made clear the threat would not affect civilians.

As the Falangist fighters prepared to move out, Thursday, crowds waited to cheer and shower them with rice.

The civilian convoy included Red Cross ambulances carrying 15 wounded fighters and seven bodies.

In Jezzine, a Maronite town, church bells rang as the civilian refugees arrived. They were greeted with flowers, sandwiches and the cheers of blue-smocked schoolchildren.

But many civilians have decided to stay rather than be evacuated to Beirut, hoping eventually to return to their homes once a settlement is reached in the mountains.

Red Cross organizer Serge Caccia said the first to be evacuated were those who had lived in the worst conditions in Deir Al-Qamar. The drawn, tense faces of the women and children in the buses gave credence to his assertion.



Sgt. Herve Richard, a member of the French peacekeeping force in Beirut, talks to two Shi'ite youths in west Beirut. Despite attacks on the French forces, the French troops still run patrols around the city (A.P. wirephoto)

2 French troops killed

BEIRUT (R) — Two French soldiers of the Multinational Force were killed in Lebanon late Wednesday night and early Friday, a French military spokesman said.

He said a non-commissioned officer was killed by an artillery shell while on an "observation mission" just before midnight but would not say where.

He said the location of the incident was a military secret, but Lebanese military sources said he was killed at Beit Meri, a Christian area in the hills about 15 kilometres east of Beirut.

The two were the 80th and 81st French soldiers killed since the Multinational Force arrived.

Iraq disappointed with U.S.-Israeli pact

BEIRUT (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said Thursday he was disappointed with the recent U.S.-Israeli security pact, and noted that it had been condemned even by pro-American Arab countries.

Mr. Aziz said at the end of a three-day visit to China that he had not discussed military cooperation with Chinese leaders. "I do not deal with such issues. The aim of my visit is merely political," he added.

Mr. Aziz declined to comment on reports that China has been arming both Iraq and Iran in their three-year war. He also said China was not planning to mediate between the two neighbours. "Being friends to both countries," he would like to see an early end to the war, Mr. Aziz told journalists at a press conference in the Great Hall of the People.

"They didn't tell me that they planned to make any special diplomatic initiative in this respect," he added.

Asked about the U.S.-Israeli security pact, Mr. Aziz said: "This pact has disappointed even the friends of the United States in our area."

"When Israel needs to be criticized and pressed to stop such policies (in Lebanon and the West Bank) (the United States) goes ahead making an agreement which shows more support," he added.

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Greece fails to revive Euro-Arab dialogue

ATHENS (R) — An attempt by Greece, the current president of the European Community, to breathe life into a loose political dialogue between the 10-nation bloc and the Arab League has foundered, diplomats said.

Organizers of a three-day meeting between foreign ministry officials from the Community and the 22-member league cancelled a planned final news conference Wednesday evening.

Instead delegates worked into the night, but by midday Thursday there was still no statement forthcoming from either side.

Diplomats in both camps said this was because the European

Community had resisted Arab attempts to get a strongly worded condemnation of Israel and a firm commitment to Palestinian statehood written into a joint final text.

They said the Arab League delegates also balked at European insistence on a reference to the security of Israel as well as that of other states in the region.

The meeting, part of an intermittent series of exchanges between the blocs, grouped officials up to the rank of permanent under-secretary and senior ambassador — the highest level on which the two sides have met for five years.

U.N. renews mandate of troops in Cyprus

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council Thursday unanimously approved a six-month extension of the mandate of the U.N. Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) but without the agreement of Turkey or Turkish Cypriots.

It was the first time since the force was established in 1964 that all parties concerned with the Cyprus problem failed to give advance consent to the renewal.

Before the vote the Turkish Cypriots said they would demand that their future relations with the force be placed on a new footing.

Addressing the council after the vote Cypriot U.N. representative Constantine Moushousis described the declaration of a Turkish-Cypriot state in northern Cyprus as a heinous crime aimed at the dismemberment of Cyprus.

He said Turkey was behind the move and its "frivolous arguments that the secessionist move came freely from the Turkish-Cypriots living in the north received the international contempt which it deserved."

In a pre-vote comment, Turkish-Cypriot representative Nail Ataly said: "As from tomorrow morning, everything will be redefined by our authorities vis-a-vis UNFICYP."

Turkish Cypriots reject U.N. move

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriots Friday rejected a U.N. resolution renewing the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping in Cyprus (UNFICYP) but said soldiers of the force could remain in the northern part of the island.

'U.S. should check Israel's human rights record'

WASHINGTON — Dr. James Zogby, the executive director of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, has issued a statement on Israel's 1983 violations of Palestinian human rights, which he submitted late in November to the U.S. State Department ahead of the department's annual human rights report. The following is the full text of Dr. Zogby's statement:

Israel's 1982 invasion and occupation of the south of Lebanon has created a new and potentially devastating instability in the Middle East.

Far from resolving any aspects of the Middle East conflict, Israel's actions have served only to heighten tensions in the region and accelerate the possibility of a major conflagration — involving, for the first time, U.S. military personnel, Dr. Zogby said.

Even for Israel, the invasion and continuing occupation have spelled disaster. In fact, only one Israeli objective was met as a result of the Lebanon war, U.S. and world attention is now focused on Lebanon — little, if any attention is given to Israel's move towards de facto annexation of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr. Zogby said that when ADC published "The Bitter Year: Arabs Under Israeli Occupation in 1982," it observed that in 1982, Israel's human rights record had been its worst ever.

It appears certain from only ADC's preliminary survey of Israeli 1983 practices in the occupied Arab lands, that this has been a devastating year for the Palestinian people, Dr. Zogby added.

Since January, ADC had recorded the following:

The forced closure and/or military occupations of at least 103 universities and secondary schools.

The illegal demolition of 157 private homes.

The imposition of 86 curfews on entire villages and refugee camps — in each instance these were imposed as collective punishment in violation of international law.

61 cases of forced land expropriations from individual decedent land owners — these expropriations have served as a prelude for accelerated settlement-building.

The killing of 17 Palestinians (by both Israeli soldiers and armed settler vigilante groups), 9 documented cases of torture during interrogation, and 3 cases of forced expulsion to Jordan.

At the same time ADC has been able to document:

More in U.S. disapprove of Marine peacekeeping

WASHINGTON (R) — Public support for keeping United States Marines in Lebanon has dropped significantly during the past month, according to a Washington Post-ABC television poll.

The poll showed Thursday that 48 per cent of 1,506 people surveyed during the past week felt that the Marines should be withdrawn compared with only 39 per cent a month ago.

The poll said that half of those contacted disapproved of the way President Reagan was handling the Lebanon crisis.

But six out of ten said he was handling the situation there "as well as any president could."

Meanwhile, the death toll in the truck bombing of the U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut has risen to 241, the Pentagon said.

The Defence Department said one of the Marines wounded in the Oct. 23 incident died in hospital Thursday.

Of the 241 dead, 220 were Marines, 19 were in the navy and three were from the army.

Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger has named a board to investigate the bombing and security at the Marine headquarters at Beirut airport.

The Times said the administration was proposing a \$1.1 billion grant for Egypt.

The grants would not have to be repaid, according to administration officials quoted by the newspaper. They said the change was being made because most military aid recipients could not afford to repay loans.

In the current financial year, which began on Oct. 1, Israel is to receive \$1.7 billion, of which it is due to repay 54 per cent.

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JORDAN TELEVISION	
14:30	Live Transmission of Prophet Muhammad's Birthday Celebrations
16:00	Islamic Programme
16:30	Programme Review
17:00	Local Programme
17:30	News in Arabic
18:00	Arabic Series
18:30	Arabic Play
19:00	News in Arabic
19:30	Play Continued
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00	French Programme
19:00	News in French
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	M.A.S.H.
21:00	Documentary — Portrait of Power: Hitler — 2
21:30	Saturday Variety Show
22:00	News in English
22:15	Thou Shalt not Kill
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM	A party on 9500 KHz SW
07:00	Morning Show
07:30	News Bulletin
07:55	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Original Foods
09:30	Morning Show
10:00	News Bulletin
10:30	Pop Session
11:00	News Summary
11:30	Pop Session
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:30	Catch the Words
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Instrumentals
15:00	Jordan Weekly/Music
15:30	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:30	Instrumentals
17:00	Special Feature
17:30	Musical
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Top Twenty
19:00	News Summary
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Book Club
20:30	The Young Sound
21:00	Country Music

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
FILM	
* "L'Assassin du Pere Noel" (submitted in Arabic) at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.	
CONCERTS	
* By German pianist Wolfram Lorenz, at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.	
* The Buda Band and Malik Madi perform at the Royal Cultural Centre studio theatre at 7:00 p.m.	
EXHIBITION	
* Photographs by James Goldworthy-Higgs at the Alia Art Gallery.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 6610267	
American Centre . 44371	
British Council . 36147-8	
French Cultural Centre . 37009	
Goethe Institute . 41993	
Soviet Cultural Centre . 24049	
Turkish Cultural Centre . 39777	
Haya Arts Centre . 665195	
Husseini Youth City . 667181	
Y.W.C.A. . 41793	
American Municipal Library . 36111	
University of Jordan Library . 843555	
SERVICE CLUBS	
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.	
Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.	
Philadelphi Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubdeh, 37440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.	
Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 23541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 72261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum. Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qaf (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery. Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Lubdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. — 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.	
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. — 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.	
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
AMMAN AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
07:00	Cairo (EA)
09:00	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
09:35	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:45	Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	Cairo (RJ)
10:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	New York (RJ)
10:40	Kuwait (KAC)
10:40	Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
11:00	Larnaca (RJ)
11:00	Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
11:15	Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
11:15	Paris, London (RJ)
11:15	Amman (RJ)
11:30	Cairo (RJ)
11:30	Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
05:45	Cairo (EA)
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
08:00	Cairo (EA)
08:30	Albans (Olympic)
08:30	Tripoli (RJ)
11:15	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:45	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:00	Paris, London (RJ)
12:00	Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:45	Larnaca (RJ)
14:30	Cairo (RJ)
15:30	Vienna, New York (RJ)
15:40	Kuwait (KAC)
19:30	Kuwait, Doha (RJ)
19:40	Jeddah (RJ)
19:40	Baghdad (RJ)
20:30	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
00:05	Cairo (RJ)
MONEY EXCHANGE	
Local sell/buy rates in JLS	
Belgian franc	66.4/ 66.8
Dutch guilder	120.4/ 121.1
Egyptian pound	325/ 329.3
French franc	44.1/ 44.4
Israeli dinar	368.3/ 376.6
Lebanese lira	68.6/ 69.8
Omani rial	1080/ 1086.6
Qatari riyal	102.3/ 102.8
Saudi riyal	107.1/ 107.5

Norway makes additional contribution to UNRWA

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Norway has made an additional cash contribution of N.Kr. 6 million (about \$802,000) to UNRWA. This brings Norway's total cash contribution for 1983 to N.Kr. 56 million (about \$7.7 million), according to a statement issued here Thursday by the UNRWA office.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck expressed his gratitude to Norway for the "generous assistance towards reducing the large deficit on the agency's 1983 budget as well as towards building up the cash balances which could be dangerously low by the end of the year".

Mr. Rydbeck also thanked the Norwegian government for its

"unfailing support at a time when the demands on UNRWA's resources are ever increasing, in the face of a lower level of total income compared with the previous year", the statement said.

Including this most recent contribution, Norway has contributed more than \$39 million in cash to UNRWA since the agency began operations in 1950.

UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, provides education, health and welfare services to those eligible among the 1.9 million registered Palestine refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Tourism study gets okay

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement between the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and Travel and Air Institute (TAI) of Europe to carry out a study on the present tourism situation in Jordan and to outline future tourism policies in the country was signed Thursday.

The project is being financed by a grant from the European Economic Community (EEC), a representative of which took part in the signing ceremony, along with the director-general of the Ministry of Tourism, Michael Hamarneh, and a representative for institute of consultants.

The company will assess the accomplishments made in tourism level in the past development plans, and will note the average stay made by tourists in Jordan as well as proposing ways of prolonging their stay in order to increase revenues.

Tourist marketing plans up to the year 2,000 will be submitted by the consulting company, and special emphasis will be laid on the role of Alia, Royal Jordanian Airlines, in promoting marketing.

The volume of hotel turnover and future hotel services will also be tackled by the study.

International experts will take part in the study which will start at the beginning of next year.

A team comprising ministry and Alia officials will co-operate with the experts.

JEA, British bank sign loan agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), Thursday signed a £4.96 million loan agreement with the British merchant bank J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Ltd. for the financing of part of the Aqaba-Amman 400 kilovolt transmission line contract.

The loan, which was signed by

the Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Walid Asfour, in his capacity as chairman of the board of the JEA, is repayable over eight and a half years from the date of commissioning of the line. Interest is payable at the current Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) consensus rate of 10.7



Banners adorn the streets of Irbid during the municipal elections held there Wednesday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Election landslide for 'Cooperation' list

IRBID (J.T.) — President of the Irbid municipal election committee Zuhair Abu Rjei Thursday morning officially announced the results of the local election which took place Wednesday, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

The new nine-member municipal council comprises Dr. Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat who received 10,104 votes; Dr. Omar Qasrawi with 6,632 votes; Dr. Qasem Al Rousan with 5,847 votes; Yusef Al Tal with 5,810 votes; Ibrahim Matalgah with 5,536 votes; Khalil Al Sane' with 5,297 votes; Mohammad Ali Bani Hani with 5,099 votes; Haroun Al Sharaireh with 4,974 votes and Musleh Al A'zzeh with 4,714 votes.

Irbid Governor Abed Khalaf Dawoudieh told Petra that the elections were held in an atmosphere of "order and organisation," and the supervising body tried their best to guarantee a free election thus ensuring healthy progress in the electoral process.

Sixteen thousand voters took part in the election from among the 31,000 officially registered for the vote, he said.

The Irbid municipal election is the first in Jordan in which women cast votes in great numbers after gaining the right to vote and stand in elections. Women's participation in the election was higher than expected and campaigning among women for candidates was noticeable both dur-

ing and before election day.

Twenty voting centres were set up for the election and candidates had the right to appoint a representative in each centre. Some supervising committee members complained that illiterate voters usually took longer to complete the voting.

Candidates in the election were grouped in four lists in addition to two "independent" candidates. It was noticeable that Al Ta'awun (cooperation) list was the best organised and the election results was sweepingly in its favour: eight out of nine on the new council being among its members, Petra said.

The only candidate from the other lists to win was Mr. Tal, head of the National Unity list.

Mr. Tbeishat, the present mayor of Irbid and head of the Ta'awun list, got the highest vote



Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat

and is expected to be reappointed mayor by the Ministry of the Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Malhas opens meeting on first "Nursing Day"

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas Thursday opened a meeting at the Professional Association's Complex as part of Jordan's first "Nursing Day." It was organised by the Nursing Professions Trade Union under the motto of "who is the patient that needs intensive care?"

Dr. Malhas, on addressing the meeting, said nursing has a vital

role to play in the provision of medical services and added that, although many nursing colleges have been set up in Jordan, Jordanian hospitals and medical centres still suffer from a shortage of licensed nurses.

The Nursing Day was also celebrated by scientific seminars, and medical lectures given by specialists.

Alia to buy 5 new TriStars

By Ara Voskdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, will add five more TriStars (L-1011-500) to its fleet during the coming three years, one of which will be received in February 1984, while extending its services to Chicago and Los Angeles in the west and Colombo and Singapore in the east, Alia President and Chairman of the Board of Directors Ali Ghandour announced Thursday.

Alia's 17-aircraft fleet already includes five TriStars, the rest consisting of three Boeing 747s, six Boeing 727s and three Boeing 707s.

Speaking at a press conference, on the occasion of Alia's 20th anniversary, Mr. Ghandour said: "There were several reasons for taking this decision. 'Primarily the TriStar is one of the most modern air planes, technically more modern than the Boeing 747, and our passengers prefer the TriStar to the rest of the planes.'"

"All Alia pilots and engineers are trained to fly and maintain the plane," Mr. Ghandour said, adding: "Furthermore, if Alia had placed the order for a Boeing 747 jumbo we would have received it in two years while the TriStar was ready for delivery."

On the economic side of the purchase, the Alia chairman said that the jumbo costs \$106 million including the seats and other essential equipment inside the aircraft, while the TriStar costs almost one quarter of the price and carries enough passengers to cover its cost and leave a profit margin. "It is an excellent aircraft technically and economically," he added.

Alia is also studying the possibility of replacing its Boeing 727 aircraft and the remaining Boeing 707s with either Boeing 757s or 767s or the Airbus to be used on the Middle East and Gulf flight and for some of the European flights.

"We are going to make our choice in the near future," Mr. Ghandour said. "We shall receive the new planes in 1986."

Concerning the new routes, Alia will start operating two new flights to Chicago and Los Angeles adding to the seven flights a week to New York, Mr. Ghandour said.

He added that there will also be two new routes to the east, to Colombo in Sri Lanka and Singapore. It is hoped, he said, "to add another later on to Manila."

With the addition of these new routes to the existing 36 destinations, Mr. Ghandour said, the number of Alia passengers is expected to rise to 1,850,000 in 1984 while 48,000 tons of cargo will be carried and the corporation's revenues will reach JD 150 million. This year Alia carried 1,550,000 passengers and 36,000 tons of cargo.

In addition to these routes, Mr. Ghandour will be leaving for China soon to discuss possibilities of Alia flying there. There are also discussions underway for the building of a hotel in partnership with China to boost tourism between the two countries.

Mr. Ghandour commented on the emphasis being given to the U.S. market by saying that there is a large number of Arabs and Jordanians living in the United States and Arab companies have strong economic relations with that country.

The evidence for the success of the U.S. market, said the Alia president, is that Alia started with one flight a week to New York in 1977 which reached daily flights this year.

As for the possibility of opening a route to South America, Mr. Ghandour said that, although there were large Arab communities there, the area's present economic situation is not encouraging Alia to open a new route "although we have received transport rights from Brazil and Argentina via North Africa."

The Jordanian national carrier has 4,750 employees including 250 pilots, 150 engineers and 550 flight attendants.

In the early days, the first four capitals which Alia flew to were Cairo, Beirut, Jeddah and Kuwait. "Since then," Mr. Ghandour said, "the number started increasing according to the priorities of the Jordanian people."

Alia flies as far as New York in the west and Bangkok in the east, including all the West European capitals and Arab capitals in the Middle East, the Gulf and North Africa, excluding only Algeria, Mr. Ghandour said.

"The idea from the beginning was to have a national carrier that would link Jordan to the Arab and world countries. Through this bridge, Jordan exports education, culture and trade to serve the Jordanian people and support the country's economy. I cannot imagine Jordan without Alia today," Mr. Ghandour said.

According to the Alia chairman who has held the position throughout its 20 years of existence, "for the last 10 years Alia has made a profit despite the economic recession in the world. 1983 was a year of economic dif-

ficulties because of the recession in Europe and the Middle East and the airline companies have suffered.

"IATA member companies alone lost \$1,500 million," Mr. Ghandour said.

"As for Alia, it did not incur any losses but at the same time it did not register the profits it had during the previous years. It was a year of sufficiency."

"We are looking at 1984 with hope and confidence as the economic recession is fading away gradually," Mr. Ghandour said.

"We trained our people on the new aircraft which we received — the pilots, the engineers and the traffic officials in the airport," Mr. Ghandour added that Alia transferred from the old (Marka) airport to the new Queen Alia International Airport "in a matter of 12 hours without delaying or cancelling any flights."

The five TriStars, which will be purchased by Alia during the coming three years, will cost \$180 million including \$40 million for spare parts.

Payment for the new five aircrafts will be made through loans which will be received from the British government Export Credit Guarantee Department, the U.S. Export-Import Bank and other commercial banks, Mr. Ghandour said.

The (government-owned) corporation's 1982 revenues amounted to approximately JD 130 million with an operational profit close to JD 6 million, of which the net profit came close to JD 1.7 million, Mr. Ghandour told around 20 journalists who attended the press conference at Alia headquarters.

Mr. Ghandour said Alia expected to break-even this year despite the effects of the world recession. The revenues this year was expected to total JD 145 million, down from JD 184 million in 1982.

Answering a question on the possibility of operating Amman-Aqaba flights with smaller aircraft, possibly the Arab Wings, Mr. Ghandour said that Arab Wings is licensed for chartered flights and not for regular routes.

"Alia is thinking of operating small aircraft on this particular route but up till now we have not made a feasibility study."

Carrying out assertive marketing policies, Alia has proved itself capable of being economically feasible, Mr. Ghandour said, adding that Alia has contributed considerably to the national economy by establishing hotels, Arab Wings a joint freight company with Iraq — Arab Air Cargo Company — and participating in the planning and supervision of the Queen Alia International Airport.

King points out obstacles in peace efforts

(Continued from page 1)

leadership of the organisation.

Destabilising the PLO

These are ominous indications and dangerous results. However, the most serious aspect of the new situation is the attempt to contain and control the PLO primarily by one Arab faction and its extremist clients within the PLO a move which is illegitimate and illegal, and totally unacceptable to us, the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people and the majority within our Arab World.

A successful containment of the PLO by some is bound to impose a constraint on the freedom of the PLO for independent political action as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It would ultimately deprive the people under Israeli occupation, and in the diaspora, of a genuine representative voice to express and defend their interests in international councils. The absence of functioning public institutions to articulate the wishes of the principal Palestinian constituency, that of the Palestine Arabs under Israeli occupation since 1967, has compounded the pressures under which we have had to labour during the last few years. The savage onslaught on the Palestinians in northern Lebanon, coupled with Israeli policies in the occupied territories, is intended to perpetuate the present status quo: Allow Israel to annex the West Bank formally, and leave the territorial integrity of Lebanon permanently compromised. The outcome is a confrontation between two potential regional powers seeking to impose their hegemony on the whole region.

It may be a mere platitude to have often stated that time is of the essence, but I am afraid that now time has all but run out on us all. Repeated attempts have been made to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, but they have all failed because people of goodwill have lacked the decisiveness to undertake effective action to prevent the work of those who do not want to see peace and justice prevail. It is a matter of considerable and great concern that in political circles throughout the world there seems to be lack of a clear appreciation of recent events in our region, though they are likely to leave their permanent imprint on the Middle East. There is little doubt that the general situation in

the Middle East has grown more alarming by the day. There must be urgent collaborative action to deal with the rapid deterioration which is taking place. The danger is no longer that of local or limited clashes between Syrian forces, PLO fighters and the Israeli army, but of a confrontation between the two superpowers that could involve the use of deadly weapons which have caused so much alarm in Europe.

For a period of several years the Soviet Union has been effectively excluded from the peace process in the Middle East, while sole responsibility for peace making is assumed by the United States. In the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Soviet Union lost influence and prestige in the Middle East. However, the global role which the Soviet Union plays as a superpower is a function of world power politics. As such, the Soviets could not be simply relegated to the sidelines, as the Palestine people and their representatives have consistently been pushed aside and ignored.

A convergence of interest between the Soviet Union and some local powers and forces in the region made it possible for the Russians to recover their position and challenge the exclusion imposed by the United States. Meanwhile, the United States has found it extremely difficult, if not impossible, despite the presence of propitious conditions, to make progress on the peace front without Palestinian representation and Soviet co-operation. American policymakers have focused their attention on Lebanon, but the Lebanese crisis is, in the main, a consequence of the Arab-Israeli dispute which has been allowed to be completely overshadowed.

The military intervention by the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon is fast becoming a dangerous diversion which pits the superpowers one against the other.

Until, and unless, its continued presence there is directly related to securing an unconditional total withdrawal of all foreign forces in that country and its recovery of its total sovereignty over all of its territory within a reasonable time frame, is linked to serious commitment by all factions of the Lebanese community to reconcile all their past, present and likely future differences and to serious progress towards that end and a new beginning for Lebanon.

It is only natural that Jordan

should not want to see that, as much as we object to the escalation in the nuclear arms race in Europe. Interdependence between the nations of the world has taught us that the danger of war in Europe threatens our survival as much as war in the Middle East undermines the security of Europe. It is of vital importance to us all that a dialogue between the two superpowers should be embarked upon so that a common approach to peace making in the Middle East could be formulated. It will be a constructive move on the part of Europe to highlight the need to involve the Soviet Union in the peace so that the danger of mounting polarisation may be prevented and few disastrous eruptions averted. After all, if Security Council Resolution 242 is the only universally accepted foundation for a Middle East peace, then all permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations have a recognised direct responsibility to contribute to its implementation with its clear formula of total withdrawal for total peace and the additional perpetual guarantee of the security of all states in the area once a long sought comprehensive peace is established.

We expect Europe to play a fully positive role to defuse the confrontation between the two superpowers and take an active part to guarantee peace in the Middle East, which is bound to come one day.

We are, of course, fully aware that while the outside powers are able to defuse or compound a situation, it is the parties concerned in any particular dispute which must agree to the terms of the final settlement. I do not have to tell you that Jordan — King, government and people have tried their utmost to contribute to the success of several peace initiatives. We have followed every avenue, exploited every opportunity and bent over backwards to accommodate friend and foe alike, to see a just and lasting peace prevail in our troubled region. Jordan has firmly supported all international initiatives to resolve the Palestinian and Middle East problems. Our co-operation with ambassador Gunner Jarring following our direct participation and contribution in formulating Security Council resolution 242 of 22 November 1967, was total and genuine, as was our participation in the Geneva conference in 1973. Jordan also welcomed the joint

Soviet-American communique of Oct. 1st 1977. We applauded Europe for the Venice declaration of 1980 as a step in the right direction. In the same spirit, Jordan welcomed the Soviet call for an international conference to discuss the problem with all the parties concerned, including the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Although we could not begrudge Egypt the recovery of its occupied territory, we could not accept the Camp David accords, because they shunted aside the Palestinian question, the crux of the Middle East problem. The accords which made possible the conclusion of a partial peace, shifted the strategic balance in Israel's favour to emerge as the dominant power in the region, and brought about the present dangerous situation.

Jordan played a similarly constructive role within the Arab community of states. These efforts culminated in the pan-Arab Fez plan of last year. The plan was preceded by the Reagan initiative and Jordan has been active to combine positive elements from both plans to make a just and comprehensive settlement possible. Both plans are based on the provisions of United Nations resolutions 242 and 338, which offered all states in the region, recognition and security within their own boundaries. I welcomed the Reagan proposals from the very outset. And wanted to see them evolve and develop. They were not comprehensive enough from our perspective, but marked a refreshing change from previous approaches to a settlement. The injection of fresh impetus into the peace process was welcomed and appreciated, as was the president's perception of the Palestinian question as the "root cause" of the conflict in the Middle East. We noted with keen interest President Reagan's interpretation of the Camp David provisions on the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to be essentially part of Arab patrimony. The omission of a link between Israel's security needs on the one hand, and the recognition of Arab legitimate rights in Palestine on the other, was unfortunate. We had high expectations that the president's call for freeze of the construction of settlements and concomitant demographic movement in the areas under Israeli occupation would be heeded. It is a matter of more than just regret that despite a total Israeli rejection of the president's initiative, decisive action was not forthcoming and the vitality of the initiative was allowed to dissipate, with it the peace process, as matters stand, lost its momentum.

In the same spirit which motivated my Hashemite forebears, I have come to you as an advocate of peace and co-operation among the nations of the world. World peace and international co-operation must be based on the preservation of the dignity of man and the rule of law.

Only wise and brave men seize rare opportunities to make the world a safer place to live in. Let us hope that we have both the wisdom and the courage, not only to grasp these opportunities, but make them as well. I am in no doubt that the current prevalence of strategic thinking is detrimental to peace. It neglects the aspirations of people and their expectations for a better life. If we fail people, we fail ourselves and allow the spectre of nihilist fanaticism to triumph. I hope and pray we shall succeed where others have not.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday

Al Ra'i: U.S. peace mirage

PEACE AND security in the Middle East and Europe are so important to stability in these strategic regions. The destiny of the peoples in these two regions should definitely not be left to the changing moods of individual ambitions and hegemonic thrusts. Against such concepts, His Majesty King Hussein delivered his strongest appeal to the peoples, governments and parliaments of Europe from the rostrum of the European parliament in Strasbourg.

The King called upon Europe to play an active role in establishing a genuine peace in the Middle East which would be an essential factor for European peace and security; he also called on the Europeans to play a more effective role to reduce tensions between the two superpowers.

The King's appeal is the most ardent proclamation yet rejecting a unilateral role by the U.S. for peace in the Middle East, a policy which has unmasked its genuine substance in the U.S.-Israel agreement for strategic cooperation, and ruled out any neutral American mediation role for the region. Hence it is no longer justifiable for the U.S. administration to assume unilateral efforts for Mideast peace, for it is time Europe and the Soviet Union moved actively to establish real peace, as peace cannot be a commodity that Israel uses in its dealing with the U.S. administration for serving the interests of these two sides only.

The King has chosen to clarify to the Europeans why peace efforts in the region are in jeopardy. It is American hesitation vis-a-vis Israel's rejectionist attitude towards peace and international legitimacy. In effect, the U.S. role has become part of the Israeli scheme, and it has as a result contributed to the continuation and exacerbation of Arab differences. It has become a national duty to uncover the American role and point out the mirage behind the American peace illusion.

Sawt Al Shaab: Danger spreading

IN HIS address before the European Parliament, His Majesty King Hussein meant to convey to the European nations an Arab message of peace, linking Mideast peace with that of Europe. The King wanted to explain to the Europeans that the polarisation is starting to engulf the whole world thus threatening new regions and peoples, the Middle East included. The lack of an international effort to obstruct the confrontation drive in the world arena has allowed an increasingly dangerous situation to prevail in international relations. The link between the deteriorating situation in the Middle East and the arms race makes it imperative for Europe to play a more effective role in reducing tensions and defusing the mounting threat of a rapidly deteriorating world situation due to increasing tension between the two superpowers, the King said in his address.

The U.S.'s unbalanced stance towards the Middle East and the predominance of polarisation considerations over peace requirements have been a major obstacle to Mideast peace. The U.S. has failed to play a fair role as a mediator, and Israel's continued rejection of the international community's will while resorting to the force with American support has been of great consequence in foiling all peace efforts in the region. The poorly-concerned Arab stance together with the inter-Arab differences have facilitated such a development, which has led to complete Arab involvement in the superpower polarisation game. It is time the persistent American drive to exclude the Soviet Union from the peace process in the region was checked, and things put in their rightful course with regard to this issue. Europe and the USSR should be given the chance to play a greater role in Mideast peace efforts.

Thursday

Al Ra'i: Measure of harmony

THE U.S. naval bombardment of targets in Lebanon, accompanying Israeli gunboat firing on Palestinian positions in Tripoli, can only mean that the U.S. and Israel have intensified their plans and are now implementing the provisions of their recently declared alliance. No doubt the bombardment will minimise the chances of an early pullout of Palestinian forces from Tripoli and delay the arrival at an agreement between the Lebanese factions to end the communal conflict in Lebanon. Needless to say, such delay in both actions serves the interests of Israel which wants Arab blood to continue to flow and internal Lebanese strife perpetuated.

The U.S. shares with Israel this feeling and these goals since inter-Arab conflicts and more bloodshed among the Arabs can only distract their attention from the Palestine issue — the crux of the Middle East crisis and the original cause of all the region's tragedies. Not only will the Palestine question be shelved but also the Lebanese question will remain unresolved, which means maintaining Israeli troops in Lebanon and the prolonging the ordeal of the Lebanese and the Palestinian people there. The bombardment of Tripoli and southern Beirut demonstrate the measure of harmony in the U.S.-Israeli plan which has been provided for in the strategic alliance.

Al Dustour: Looking to France

THE PEOPLES of the Middle East region look to France with admiration and respect. They see in France the cradle of those principles born with the French revolution of the 18th century, the principles that spread throughout the world. We look to France as a great nation that can play an important and unique role in solving our region's problems.

Our respect to France was expressed by His Majesty King Hussein who praised that nation and its stand vis-a-vis the Middle East question and Arab rights. France certainly has a major role to play within the European Community and in the world at large and for this reason Jordan pins great hopes on France and the role it can play to restore stability and peace to our region.

Sawt Al Shaab: Point of no return

THE U.S. has now switched its role from that of a peace mediator to a partner in Israel's crimes and aggression against the Arab Nation. This is manifest in its bombardment of Arab targets in harmony with Israel's goals and in a concerted effort with the Zionists aimed at perpetuating the sufferings of the Arabs and their problems. As long as the Lebanese issue remains unresolved the Palestine problem and the sufferings of the Palestinian people will not end.

Nakasone: 'Riding a bicycle against a north wind'

By Yuko Nakamikado
Reuters

TOKYO — Saddled with Japan's biggest post-war political scandal, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone is on the defensive in the run-up to the Dec. 18 general election.

Campaigning for the poll, six months ahead of schedule and only a year after Mr. Nakasone took office, officially started Saturday.

But politicians began wooing voters several weeks ago when it became clear that Mr. Nakasone would go for an election to break a political deadlock stemming from the Oct. 12 conviction of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka in the Lockheed bribery scandal.

Mr. Nakasone, who is putting his own popularity to a crucial test in the election, finally broke the suspense last week by dissolving

the House of Representatives and naming polling day.

Setting the tone for a campaign in which opposition parties will try to make maximum political capital out of the Tanaka verdict, Mr. Nakasone said: "I feel as if I'm riding a bicycle against a north wind."

The decision to call the election ended a six-week-long political stalemate caused by an opposition boycott of parliament to try and force Mr. Tanaka to quit his seat.

Mr. Tanaka has appealed against his conviction and a four-year prison sentence for accepting, while in office, a \$2 million bribe from the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. He has resisted all pressure to relinquish his backstage role as Japan's political kingmaker and the main force behind Mr. Nakasone.

He is standing for re-election in the third constituency of Niigata prefecture on the main island of

Honshu.

Mr. Tanaka has held the seat since 1947 and seems assured of being returned by voters who appreciate the public works and other material benefits he has won for them over the years.

The main thrust of the election is the number of seats the LDP is likely to lose as a result of public unease over the Tanaka affair and the issue of political ethics.

The LDP, in power for 29 years, held 285 of the 511 seats in the old House of Representatives.

Political analysts attributed its big win in the last general election in June 1980 to a large sympathy vote attracted by the death during the campaign of the then Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira.

This time, according to analysts, the party is certain to lose seats, but is very unlikely to lose its majority because of the disarray among the opposition groups.

The main opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP) held 100 seats in

the old house. Its platform of unarmoured neutrality is unlikely to have any greater appeal to voters than in the past.

Latest opinion polls show the LDP has a good chance of being returned with 270 seats, which would ensure that it retains chairmanship of all 18 standing committees of the Lower House and absolute control of parliamentary business.

Such a result would also guarantee that Mr. Nakasone is returned as LDP president, and prime minister when his two-year term as party leader is up for re-election next November, political analysts said.

But they cautioned that a significantly poorer showing by the LDP could trigger factional party squabbling and undermine Mr. Nakasone's position.

In pre-campaign jostling, Mr. Nakasone has tried to divert public attention away from the Tanaka affair by emphasising his own

role as Japan's spokesman in international affairs.

The 63-year-old prime minister, who played host recently to President Reagan, told party officials this week: "I have made a few promises to top leaders of other countries."

"If we lose the election, then the credibility of Japan and the party will go down."

LDP Secretary-General Susumu Nakaido said in a newspaper interview that the LDP campaign would emphasise national security and economic issues.

"The LDP will make it clear during the campaign that ethics and morals alone do not dominate politics," he said.

According to a survey last month by the state-owned National Broadcasting Corporation, five per cent of 1,800 voters polled said they would shift their allegiance to the opposition parties because of the Tanaka affair.

For Mr. Tanaka himself, the election will decide whether he continues to maintain his dominant role in Japanese politics.

His faction, which held 65 seats in the previous house, is contesting at least 84 seats, the largest bloc among the six major LDP factions.

In his own seat he is being challenged by Akiyuki Nosaka, a 53-year-old novelist, who resigned an independent seat in the Upper House to contest the election. Mr. Nosaka is given no chance of winning.

Apart from the LDP and Socialist Party, the Buddhist-oriented Komeito Party held 34 seats in the old House of Representatives, the Democratic Socialist Party 29, the Japan Communist Party 29, the LDP-splitter New Liberal Club 11 and the Socialist splinter United Democratic Party three. There were six independents and 13 vacancies.



Controversy over the press anti-trust in France

By Alison Maitland
Reuters

PARIS — The French Government, hoping to please its rank-and-file supporters with a new law to break up press empires, is unexpectedly facing cries of alarm from leading figures on the left.

The anti-trust bill, subject of a major parliamentary debate that started on Thursday, has already come under attack from an arsenal of opposition leaders and publishers who say it is an assault on press liberty and free enterprise.

But more deflating for the government is the concern expressed by certain editors and intellectuals on the left, and even Socialist deputies, who approve the principles behind the law but fear in practice it may backfire.

The government says the bill will bring greater pluralism to the press and prevent concentration of ownership by limiting the number of daily newspapers a group may control and preventing a group having a stake in both the national and regional press.

Based on one of the Socialists' 1981 electoral campaign promises, the bill met storming applause when unveiled by Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy at the party congress in October.

Political analysts said the promised measures were designed as a morale-booster for the Socialist rank-and-file, hit by a string of local election defeats for the left and by economic austerity measures introduced by the government last March.

The attraction of the bill to many on the left is its attack on France's best-known press magnate, Robert Hersant.

The 63-year-old publisher controls 39 per cent of the national newspaper circulation through his ownership of Le Figaro, its virtual carbon-copy L'Aurore, and France Soir.

His group's growing empire in the provinces comprises about 15 local papers and accounts for 14 per cent of total regional newspaper sales in France.

Mr. Hersant, a right-winger who also owns numerous periodicals and print plants, has long been a bitter enemy of the left.

He published his first newspaper, Jeunes Forces, during the Nazi occupation of France. It was the self-styled organ of the Vichy government youth forces. His past, while rarely mentioned pub-

licly today, helps explain the Left's campaign against him.

Since 1981, the government has pursued him for alleged tax evasion and for raising the cover price of Figaro in contravention of price guidelines.

It has tried to speed up a court case brought against him five years ago when he was charged with contravening a 1944 Decree, which has never been applied, forbidding a single person to own more than one paper.

Meanwhile Mr. Hersant's group has continued to expand, with the purchase this year of one of France's biggest regional newspapers, the Grenoble-based Dauphine Libere.

Mr. Hersant says that under the new law he would be obliged at the very least to sell either the morning paper Le Figaro or the evening France Soir. He has warned that 3,000 jobs would be in jeopardy if France Soir was forced to close.

Henri Nogueres, Socialist president of the French Human Rights League, told the parliamentary committee examining the bill that it was badly drafted and would enable Mr. Hersant's empire to continue.

He called for the implementation of the 1944 Decree, which is tougher than the Socialist bill.

Mr. Nogueres also criticised the absence of measures in the bill to put the newspaper industry onto a sound financial footing.

Most Paris dailies and many regional newspapers are being squeezed, hit by declining circulation and competition for advertising from magazines and state-controlled television.

Mr. Hersant prides himself on having turned the fortunes of Figaro, which was losing heavily to its main competitor, the left-leaning Le Monde, when he bought it in 1975. Now, he says, Figaro sales exceed those of Le Monde by about 25 per cent.

Last week Le Monde announced that 110 of its 1,300 employees would be asked to take early retirement to prevent losses for the third year running in 1984 and protect the independence of the newspaper. Le Monde has a circulation of 450,000.

A big criticism of the bill, voiced by Serge July, editor of the left-wing newspaper Liberation, is that by aiming at Mr. Hersant it ignores the many regional press monopolies that suppress competition across France.

July cited the example of Ouest



France, whose sales throughout Brittany and Normandy give it the biggest circulation of any newspaper in France at nearly 800,000 copies.

"The bill tends to freeze the situation in the press as it is and not as it ought to develop with flexibility and inventiveness," July said.

The bill has some supporters, among them Claude Perdiel, director of the pro-Socialist daily Le Matin, who says it will create new space for small newspapers to exist.

But others on the left, like political sociologist and writer Maurice Duverger, feel that if anti-trust legislation is a good thing this particular bill is a botched-up job.

Mr. Duverger, writing in Le Monde, said the law should tackle other monopolies, such as the state's control over television, instead of merely trying to settle old scores.

"Is this press bill one of those good intentions which pave the roads to hell?" he asked.

Socialist deputies in the National Assembly, in common with some journalists, are concerned that the bill is too vague on the key issue of preserving editorial independence.

Many feel it is weak in other respects, doing nothing to encourage the creation of new newspapers, for example.

But they are expected to support the government against the huge opposition offensive — hundreds of amendments to delay the bill and a vote of censure which was debated on Wednesday.

Socialist deputies favour importing the text as much as possible, commented Le Monde. "But backing down is unthinkable."

Nordic nuclear free-zone urged

By Richard Wallis
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — A Soviet general's proposal to ban nuclear weapons from three Soviet republics on the Baltic seems aimed at breathing new life into the almost moribund idea of creating a Nordic zone free of nuclear weapons.

Gen. V. Tatarikov was quoted in a Finnish newspaper Saturday as saying the republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia could be included in a nuclear-weapon-free zone, the latest Soviet hint that Moscow is prepared to broaden the zone concept.

The idea of a Nordic nuclear-weapon-free zone was first proposed by former Finnish President Urho Kekkonen in 1963. It was recently taken up by neutral Sweden, but the proposal fell flat this summer when the other two countries in the region, NATO members Denmark and Norway, refused to endorse it.

Last March another senior Soviet officer, Gen. Nikolai Tjervov of the Soviet delegation to the Geneva disarmament talks, floated the idea of including the Baltic Sea in a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

The proposal was formalised in June by Soviet leader Yuri Andropov when Finnish President Mauno Koivisto visited Moscow, and Mr. Andropov offered to include unspecified parts of Soviet territory in the zone.

Saturday's interview made clear the Andropov offer referred to areas adjacent to Finland.

The offer on the Baltic states by Gen. Tatarikov, identified as a spokesman of the Soviet General Staff, comes only a few days before Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Väyrynen is due in Moscow on an official visit.

Recent NATO moves to start installing medium-range U.S. cru-

isles and Pershing-2 missiles in five West European countries have led to suggestions by some Finnish politicians, hastily denied by the government, that the new weapons have undermined the credibility of Finnish neutrality.

One guiding principle of the "Nordic balance" since the World War II has been to preserve Finnish neutrality.

Finland is committed to defend the Soviet Union against any attack against it through Finnish territory by Germany or its allies under a 1948 treaty of friendship and co-operation.

Finland announced recently it was stepping up its air defences in order to counter the threat of cruise missiles overflying its territory on their way to the Soviet Union.

Hardline Finnish Communists however have said the NATO deployment justified invoking the treaty's clause on military consultations with Moscow, a step Finland has always resisted.

The killing goes on in N. Ireland

By Colin McIntyre
Reuters

BELFAST — A fresh-faced, scholarly-looking young man who was a rising star in Northern Ireland politics was chatting outside the gates of Queen's University in Belfast before going in to teach his morning law class.

Without warning two young men, casually dressed like the students hurrying past them, rose from behind a low wall.

One pumped four shots at point-blank range into his head and back, still firing as he lay slumped on the pavement.

Edgar Graham, 29, brilliant academic and Protestant politician, died almost instantly, unable to reach the gun he legally carried for his protection.

His killer stuffed his own gun into a folder held by the other youth and both escaped on foot through the red-brick Victorian buildings of Northern Ireland's premier university.

The death last week of Mr. Graham, a prominent member of the Official Unionist Party (OUP), the largest in the province, brought condemnation from all sides but little sense of shock in this part of Britain where violence has become a way of life.

After 14 years of sectarian and political strife between the Protestant pro-British majority and Catholic Nationalist minority, violent death is an ever-present reality for those involved in politics or security, Mr. Graham, buried last week, was the 2,341st person to

die since the latest spate of violence began in 1969.

Of these, 191 were policemen, 507 soldiers and 1,642 "civilians". The last category includes guerrillas fighting on each side of the sectarian and political divide. Nationalists like the Irish Republican Army (IRA) fighting to end British rule, and loyalists like the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) who counter them.

It also includes politicians, a target for the gunmen since 1971, when the IRA shot Unionist Senator John Barnhill and Home Affairs Minister John Taylor, though the latter survived.

A year later a unionist councillor with police connections, William Johnston, died from an IRA bullet. In 1973, loyalists kidnapped and stabbed to death Catholic Senator Paddy Wilson.

The last prominent politician to die before Mr. Graham was the Reverend Robert Bradford, a Unionist member of the British Parliament, who was gunned down by the IRA in his constituency advice centre two years ago.

Several leading politicians have had narrow escapes. OUP leader James Moynihan has had bombs placed outside rooms he was in on two occasions, but each time the devices were defused.

Top local politicians, such as members of the parliament in London, are now provided with bodyguards as a matter of course.

Mr. Graham would not normally have had one, but because

of his firm advocacy of law and order and his meteoric political career marking him out as a possible future party leader, he was reported to have headed an IRA death list.

Security sources said he was offered a bodyguard but declined, although he did carry a gun.

The continuing violence has affected many as it has moved from the streets and country lanes into places once considered sanctuaries — bars, churches, hospitals and universities.

Because the vast majority of bars in Northern Ireland are segregated along Protestant and Catholic lines, they were the first to become targets of the guerrillas.

After a spate of car bombings in the early 1970s, bar doors were surrounded by metal cages and windows bricked up. Two bombs alone killed 28 people.

The position has improved since then, but many people stick to guarded city-centre pubs with no fixed allegiance.

Churches have also been targets in a war with a strong religious flavour, and police say dozens have been destroyed or damaged.

In 1975, two young Catholics were gunned down on the steps of a Belfast church as they left evening mass, but the worst attack on a church came last month.

Gunner burst into a tiny wooden Protestant chapel in a border county and fired on the Pentecostal congregation as they were singing hymns, killing three church elders.

دليل 136



Talking straight Marwan Muasher

I had the TV on the other night while trying to finish writing a

report for work. They had one of these programmes on where they ask people the same questions all the time. "What are your wishes for the new year?", the reporter asked. The guy put on a most solemn face and answered: "Peace among all nations of the world." It must be nice that with all the troubles this guy might have, he can still cast them aside and think of world peace. And all I was worrying about was finishing a little page report.

I am not against worrying about big things. But what is wrong with the world today is that we worry too much about big problems (or appear to), and not enough about small ones. It seems to me that maybe if we start noticing the small, little things that take place in our lives, we'd have less big problems to worry about. That guy on TV looked heavy to me. What if he just looked straight into the camera and just said, "I wish to lose five kilograms off my weight". He probably would be describing his feelings more truthfully.

I have often wondered, listening to people on TV, on all levels of authority, whether they were real people or not. Often, while they talked about how they were going to solve problems of the world (and they talk about it a lot), I'd be wondering what kind of foods they like, or whether they get mad, wear pyjamas, or even smile. You know, things the rest of us do everyday.

This TV behaviour is but a manifestation of a phenomenon that is part of the nature of mankind, but particularly of our culture in this past of the world. We tend to think that everything important is of necessity also big. We grow up with a reinforced notion in composition subjects, at school, at home, that we should always think of national dreams, of big ambitions. Society as a whole is always over-emphasised, and traits of individuality are seldom allowed to nurture. It is not wrong, of course, to have big dreams. One should never lose vision of national

aspirations or society's welfare. But I think in our zeal to implant these notions, we become too involved in them to develop the necessary individuality in each of us that will make these dreams come true. As a result, we do not learn to come in touch with our own personal feelings. Thus, we miss noticing many of the small pleasures that actually constitute life, because we are preoccupied with some long-term dream. An answer by that man on TV of "I wish to lose five kilos" is socially unacceptable, because we are always taught to bypass our personal ambitions in favour of bigger aspirations, which unfortunately many times remain just that. The fact is we often utter sentences that we do not really mean, but that are socially conforming.

I often wonder whether we give life a bigger size than it actually deserves. We dramatise everything. We put this hallow around it, and think of all events as the cause or result of some "big" phenomena. Even our troubles

are always attributed to "big" conspiracies. Nothing is small, nothing is ordinary. We just take life too seriously, fellows.

Everyone has some big ambition he wants to accomplish. Often it is the only thing that keeps us going. But everyone is also just trying to stay alive. In our quest for these ambitions, we tend to lose track of the small things that enlighten our life. For most pleasures we get in life lie not in attaining a life-long goal, but in the moments of joy, in the experiences we pick along the way. We often expect satisfaction to come at the culmination of our efforts, when it is really a gradual injection that takes place everyday, an injection we do not always feel.

When I was a high school student, all I dreamt about was getting a university degree. The day I did get it was one of the most anti-climactic days in my life. I've had my share of them. You always dream it is going to happen with a bang, or may be the sound

of a marching band playing a triumphant tune in the background. Usually, there was no bang, no tune. It is then that I realised that all the bangs, all the moments of joy I was waiting for were already mine. The memories I treasure from college are not those of graduation day, but rather of all the people I met, places I went to, joys and even sorrows that I felt while working for that day. It is indeed a pity if we expect to get all our satisfaction in life from such few days rather than from all the other ordinary days.

What I am getting at is that we need to be more involved in our ordinary, day-to-day life, and learn to appreciate all the pleasures of the ordinary life that are there, that we fail to see. We need to listen and talk more to our children, or pay more attention to our wives or husbands, or be nicer to people at the office. We need to be crazy sometimes, and stop thinking we have to be solemn or perfect 24 hours a day. We need to dance to a tune if we like it without

worrying what people will say. We need to be true to ourselves. And we need to cry when we feel frustrated or sad. Even pain can be a most valuable experience if one allows oneself to experience it and then let oneself out of it. There is something refreshing in thinking that out of all this daily mess we keep complaining about, a lot of good still seems to emerge and people still seem to want to help other people. I am still looking for something good to say about humanity today.

We need to learn how to experience ordinary life in all its diversity, so that when we are asked our opinion, we give one out of our daily experience that we and others can relate to, instead of repeating clichés we don't really mean. These everyday experiences, if we allow ourselves to notice them, will give us clearer insights into our bigger visions, and help give us the sincerity needed to at least try to make these visions come true. After all, it is not the ordinary that often creates

the extraordinary. A lot of people are just afraid of failing, of appearing imperfect or naive if they express what they think are insignificant feelings they have. So what? It people won't do things unless they're perfect, nothing would ever get accomplished. It is nice if we can accept our imperfections as part of being human.

Have you noticed that when you miss someone, you usually don't miss his ideas on peace, or his theory of relativity? You miss his laughs, or her voice. You miss what you considered imperfections like maybe how she is afraid of cockroaches? You miss his silly habits. You miss the extraordinary qualities more than the ordinary attributes. Indeed, you might miss the fallible traits before you do the perfect ones.

I might be crazy, but I think the day I hear a TV reporter ask someone what he wishes for the new year, and the answer comes, "To lose five kilos", I'll know we are in good shape.

Language of Jesus still kept alive in 3 Syrian villages

By Michael Sheridan
Reuter

MAALOUA, Syria — Long forgotten by Christian churches, the spoken language of Jesus Christ is kept alive by the inhabitants of three remote Syrian villages.

The residents of Maaloula and two neighbouring villages are the only people who still speak what scholars call the Western Aramaic dialect, which was the everyday language of Roman Palestine during the lifetime of Jesus.

Today, it is virtually a dead language, studied only in a few Western universities and surviving in ancient texts and fragments of scripture.

But to the carpenter and greengrocer of this primitive, honeycombed village clinging to the mountainside, it is the everyday language of business, children's chatter and neighbours' gossip.

"Of course everybody here can speak Arabic, but among themselves they speak the language of our saviour," said Father Michael Zaqoura, of the Monastery of Saint Sergius or Mar Sarkis.

Father Michael, a jovial man who offers visitors a goblet of monastery wine to ward off the mountain chill, has made a study of the survival of spoken Aramaic here in the foothills of the Anti-Lebanon Range, about 60 kilometres north of Damascus.

"First, this village had a long tradition of pilgrimage and religious devotion. Second, it was isolated and at odds with its surrounding territory," he said.

"Isolation and fervour — that kept the tongue alive."

Maaloula means "the entrance," named after reputed miracle when the Sheer Mountain split to open an escape route for an early saint fleeing persecution.

Today, its tumbledown houses, some blue-roofed and others hewn from the cliff face, straggle up the yawning gap in the hill.

Father Michael's monastery, sitting atop the rock, was once a pagan temple. It became a church

in the 4th Century A.D.

"Two books of the Bible were written in Aramaic, Daniel and Ezra. The Lord's prayer, which Christians recite the world over, was first spoken in this language," Father Michael said.

The villagers, intrigued that their dialect should make them a curiosity for linguists and historians, gladly speak it, allowing tones into a tape recorder.

It sounds similar to Arabic but is more guttural.

Traffic offenders face stiff penalties in Iraq

By Subhy Haddad
Reuter

BAGHDAD — Stiffer penalties await road traffic offenders in Iraq as the government tries to reduce the number of accidents which kill or cripple thousands of people every year.

More than 100,000 accidents were recorded in the past four years, according to traffic authorities, although there are less than one million cars in the whole country.

Under a recent law, motorists face heavy fines or up to a month in jail if they fail to fasten their seat belts or if they throw cigarette butts through car windows onto the relatively clean streets of Baghdad.

A car owner who lets a relative or friend take the wheel without a driving licence is liable to a 250,000 (250,000-dollar) fine and/or up to six months imprisonment.

Many accidents are caused by youngsters and by relatives of soldiers killed in the Gulf war with

Iraq who are given new free cars as compensation but have not driving experience.

The total number of cars in Iraq increased about ten-fold in the past 10 years.

Officials say Iraq is one of the world's largest importers of car spare parts.

Iraq makes heavy vehicles and also plans to manufacture Volkswagen Passat cars under an agreement with Brazil, but for the time being saloon cars have to be imported, mostly from Japan.

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SPORTS

Bauer advises Australians after beating Sweden's Jarryd

SYDNEY (R) — American Mike Bauer handed out some strong advice to Australia after beating Swedish Davis Cup player Anders Jarryd for a place in the New South Wales Men's Tennis Open semifinals here on Friday.

"Power, power and more power — that's what you need to beat the Swedes," Bauer said after defeating Jarryd 6-7, 6-4, 6-4.

"I simply overpowered Jarryd. I basically blew him off the court with my serves and that's what the Australians have to do."

"You guys have to attack. Get on top of the net and put the ball away — fast. It's no good playing from the baseline."

Australia meet Sweden in the Davis Cup final in Melbourne on Dec. 26.

Pat Cash, one of the Australian team along with Paul McNamee.

John Fitzgerald and Mark Edmondson, cruised past Lloyd Bourne of the United States 6-3, 6-1.

Cash now meets Joakim Nystrom, who put out American Robert Seguso 6-1, 6-3, proving himself worthy of his Swedish team place.

Nystrom's results here and in the Australian Open have increased his chances of replacing Jarryd in the second singles position alongside Australian Open Champion Mats Wilander.

Although Nystrom says he will need to win this tournament to have a chance of playing in the

singles. Swedish captain Hans Olsson is impressed with his performance so far.

"Before we came to Australia I was thinking a lot of Jarryd, but Nystrom's results here have been very good and he has shown he can handle grass," Olsson said.

Bauer, who ousted U.S. Open Champion Jimmy Connors in the second round of the Palm Springs tournament in February, now meets compatriot Marty Davis in the other semifinal.

Davis rallied from 2-5 down in the first set to beat Australian Brad Dyke 7-6, 7-5 on Friday.

After his match, Cash said he feels the five set matches of the Davis Cup will play more into his hands.

"The three-set matches here suit the Swedes more, but I feel I am better at five sets," he said.

Singapore to host Asian Cup football

SINGAPORE (R) — The 1984 Asian Cup soccer, the premier tournament for the continent's footballers, will be held in Singapore next December. The final Football Confederation announced on Friday.

The matches from next Dec. 2 to 17 will feature eight qualifiers from 29 countries playing in four pools and the two teams exempted from qualifying — 1980 winners Kuwait and hosts Singapore.

The 11 countries in the final round will be divided in two groups for round robin matches before the semi-final knock-out between the top two from each group to decide the teams for the final.

Confederation Chairman Hamza Abu Samah said its executive would meet in Bahrain on Dec. 28 to decide the schedule and venues for the qualifying pool matches planned for between April and September.

The 29 teams in the qualifying rounds will play in the following four groups:

Group I — Iran, Thailand, Syria, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Burma, Philippines.

Group II — Saudi Arabia, India, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Oman, Nepal, Sri Lanka.

Group III — South Korea, Japan, Bahrain, North Yemen, Pakistan, Lebanon, Macau.

Group IV — Iraq, China, Qatar, Hong Kong, South Yemen, Jordan, Brunei, Afghanistan.

Khan scales greater heights

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — At only 19, world squash champion Jahangir Khan of Pakistan has already reached summits of sporting success that few other athletes have ever scaled.

Jahangir, 21 last Saturday, beat Chris Dittmar of Australia 9-3, 9-6, 9-11 last week to take his third successive World Open title.

The Pakistani's victory extended an unbeaten run lasting almost 32 months and marked his first world title win without the loss of a single game in the entire championships.

His semifinal demolition of Egypt's Gamal Awad, who was only permitted a single point, showed that the gap between Jahangir and the rest of the squash world is still widening.

Squash players are supposed to peak in their early 30s and Jahangir has the dedication to go on improving a game which already appears to be close to perfection. Jahangir, latest member of a distinguished squash-playing clan, says his recipe for success is simple — lots of hard work, no alcohol and plenty of curry.

He trains for at least six hours a day, half of which is spent practising on court, mostly on his own.

The rest of his time is devoted to fitness work through a carefully worked out programme of long-distance running, sprinting, jumping and swimming.

"It's my job and I enjoy it," he says. "When I get fed up I'll leave squash."

Jahangir believes there are many leading players who could beat him — if they were prepared to train as hard as he does and forego the pleasures of alcohol.

Although he plays down suggestions that he has an extraordinary natural talent for the game, watching him perform leaves the indelible impression of a genius at work.

While other players huff and puff Jahangir seems to glide effortlessly round the court, never appearing under pressure.

He hits the ball with a ferocity which few opponents can deal with, has every shot in the book at his command and, most important of all, almost never makes a mistake.

Jahangir first picked up a racket at the age of 11 but his grandfather, who learned the game from the British, had already found a true squash dynasty. Jahangir's father Roshan Khan



Jahangir Khan — latest member of a distinguished squash-playing clan.

was British Open Champion in 1956 while his uncle Hashim Khan dominated the game in the 1950's, winning seven open titles.

Jahangir moved from Pakistan to London in 1974 to live with his brother Torsam, another leading world player.

Soon afterwards he entered the "old Amateur Championships" in Australia and won as a 15-year-old qualifier. "It was a big surprise to me and everyone else," he says.

But a few weeks later tragedy struck the Khan family when his brother died of a heart attack during the Australian Open.

"I stopped playing squash for two months," Jahangir recalls. "But my family pushed me and urged me to achieve my brother's ambition to be world champion."

Since then Jahangir has won every major title, many several times. His last defeat was against former World Champion Geoff Hunt of Australia in the 1981 British Open.

Later that year he beat Hunt, who has since retired, to take his first world title.

Jahangir is now under the wing of his cousin Rahmat Khan and family connections, continued to help him during the Munich Championships.

"I love curry and luckily I have a relation in Munich who has cooked for me," he says.

The modest champion, who has homes in both Karachi and London, returns to his native country this week for the Pakistan Open.

"I expect there will be receptions for me," he says, smiling shyly. "I'm like a hero for them at home."

He refuses to divulge how much money he makes from squash. Apart from prize-money he has his own "unsquashable" rackets and sportswear, company and a number of sponsorship deals.

His supremacy in the game was best put in focus by world number two Qamar Zaman, also of Pakistan, after losing to New Zealand's Stuart Davenport, 21, in a World Open quarter-final match.

Asked if Davenport had the ability to be world champion, Zaman answered: "Of course. In 10 years time when Jahangir retires."

Australia names unchanged team for Davis Cup

SYDNEY (R) — Australia named an unchanged team Friday to take on Sweden in the Davis Cup tennis final starting in Melbourne on December 26.

Brian Tobin, President of the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia, said Australia would be represented by John Fitzgerald, Patrick Cash, Paul McNamee and Mark Edmondson. "The team pretty well selected itself," he added.

All four played in Australia's previous Davis Cup matches against Britain, Romania and the semi-final against France when Fitzgerald beat leading French player Yannick Noah to give the Australians an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

There were also no surprises in the Swedish team. Captain Hans Olsson said it would be led by

Australian Open winner Mats Wilander, supported by Anders Jarryd, Hans Simonsson and Joakim Nystrom.

But he refused to say whether Jarryd or Nystrom would fill the second string singles spot behind Wilander.

Although many experts forecast that Wilander will win his two singles rubbers, Tobin said: "I didn't think we could win a match against Noah. We did, so the possibility is there that we can take one off Wilander."

"Obviously he's going to be tough and much of the work will be concentrated on the other guy, whoever he is."

Australia has won the Davis Cup 24 times, with the last victory coming in 1977. Sweden's sole win was in 1975.

Dutch out for big win to reach European finals

ROTTERDAM (R) — The Netherlands, determined to revive the successes of the 1970s, hope for a crop of goals against Malta here on Saturday to secure a place in next year's European Soccer Championship finals.

The Dutch, who beat Spain 2-1 here last month to go to the top of Group Seven, are a blend of experienced and younger players and have shown distinct promise recently.

Coach Kees Rijvers hopes they will eventually match the squad who took the Netherlands to the World Cup finals in 1974 and 1978.

The Netherlands and second-placed Spain each have 11 points from seven matches. But with a six-goal advantage over Spain,

whose remaining game is also at home against Malta, the Dutch are favourites to qualify for the finals in France.

The Dutch crushed Malta, bottom of the five-team group, 6-0 in December last year, and Rijvers and his team are confident they can repeat the dose in the Feyenoord Rotterdam stadium.

Rijvers keeps faith with the team who beat Spain and pulled off a 3-2 away win against Ireland in October after trailing 2-1 at half-time.

The Dutch hope to knock at least another six goals past Malta to set Spain a daunting task against the Maltese in the final group match next Wednesday.

Malta's squad include nine players who faced the Dutch a year

ago. Coach Victor Scerri expects his team to lose but said the main job was to keep the score as low as possible.

Malta goalkeeper John Bonello, who has played well even though 211 goals have been conceded by the side in six matches, said: "I don't know why the Dutch are fussing. 3-1 is enough for them to qualify."

UEFA drops bribe investigation

BERNE (R) — The European Football Union (UEFA) Thursday dropped its investigation into a charge that an attempt was made to bribe Dutch soccer club Groningen.

In a statement issued after its disciplinary committee considered the case, UEFA said Groningen had given insufficient proof of its allegation.

The Dutch club said a month ago that trainer Hans Berger was offered 250,000 guilders (about \$85,000) to ensure the club lost a UEFA Cup second round, second leg, match against Inter Milan in Bari on November 2.

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Fans, newspapers enraged over India's test defeat

NEW DELHI (R) — India's parliamentarians and newspapers have called for the resignation of cricket officials and wholesale changes in the team following India's crushing defeat by the West Indies in the fifth test in Calcutta.

Indian fans' frustrations boiled over at the Eden Gardens ground on Wednesday after the West Indies touring team won by an innings and 46 runs to take a winning 3-1 lead in the six-test series.

Calcutta's Telegraph newspaper on Thursday quoted eyewitnesses as saying enraged fans hurled stones, bottles, oranges and tomatoes and shouted abuse

at the Indian players after the match.

They attacked a bus carrying the Indian side back to their hotel, breaking windows and injuring middle order batsman Ashok Malhotra and team manager Abbas Ali Baig.

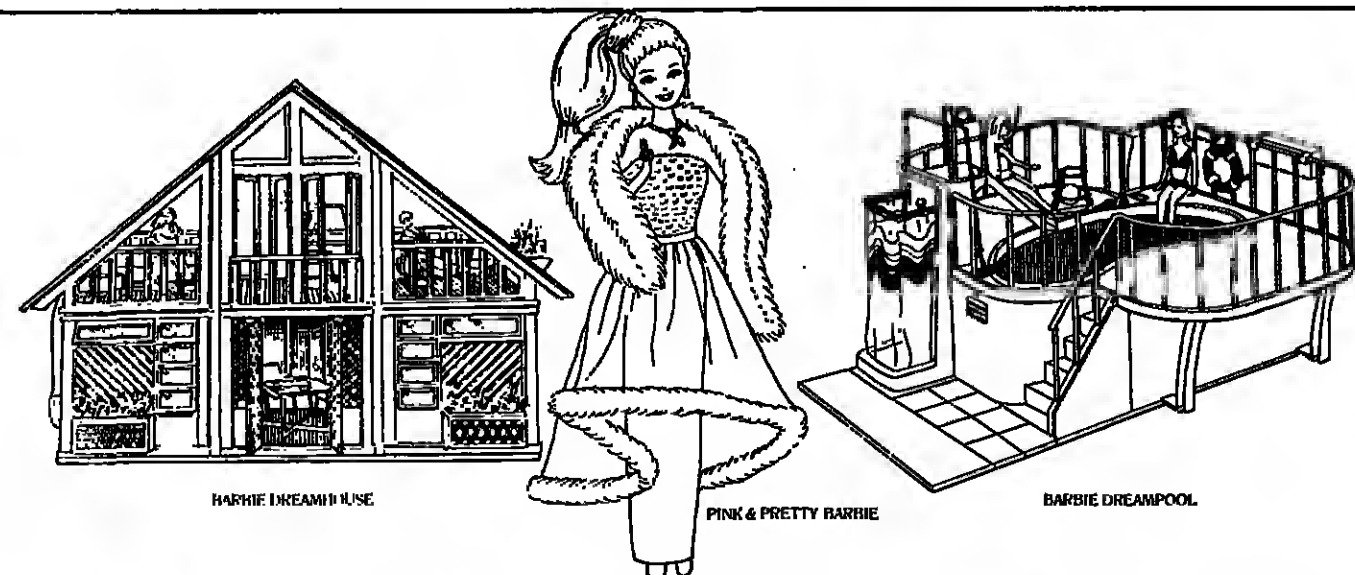
India's captain Kapil Dev was a particular target for the angry fans who threw bottles and oranges at him while he was being interviewed with rival skipper Clive Lloyd by local television.

In an editorial, the Telegraph blamed officials of India's Cricket Board for organising tours during the close season and the bad selection of players.

"The same team which had been welcomed by delirious crowds waving garlands... was yesterday pelted with stones. A team which had stunned the world by becoming undisputed World Champions (in the World Cup)... has the Indian cricket lover equally stunned at the pits it has dipped to."

It said India had only one bowler of test standard, skipper Dev, and no-one comparable among the batsmen after accomplished opener Sunil Gavaskar hit a bad patch recently.

Indian parliamentarians on Wednesday expressed unhappiness over the defeat and called for the resignation of N.K.P. Salve, president of the Board of Cricket Control and minister of state for steel and mines in Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's cabinet.

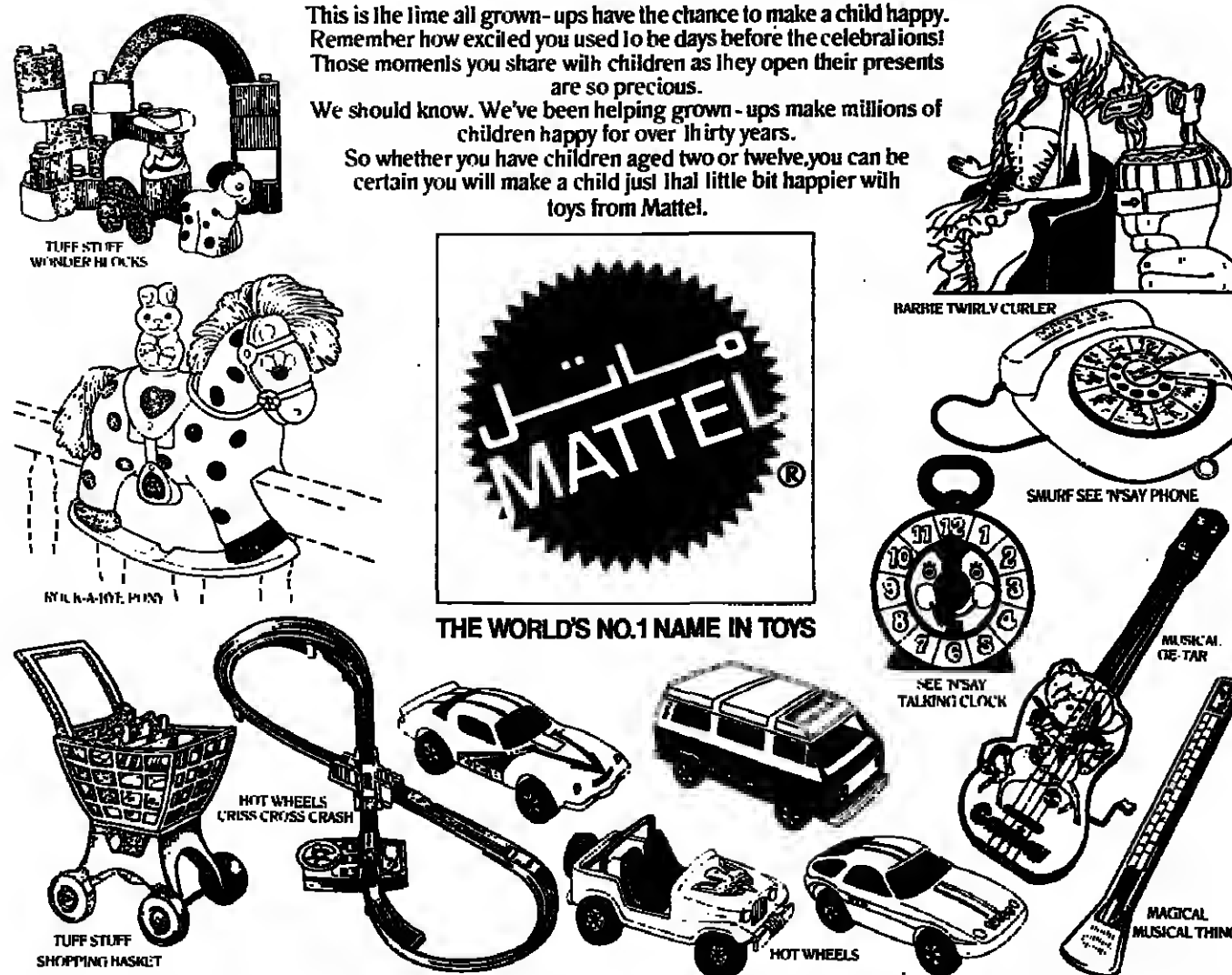


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U.S. payments deficit soars to record \$12b

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. balance of payments deficit soared to a record \$12 billion in the third quarter of 1983, mainly due to a strong dollar, slow growth abroad and economic troubles in developing countries, the government said Thursday.

The figure exceeds the deficit of \$11.2 billion for all of last year. The previous quarterly high was \$9.7 billion in the second quarter of this year.

The large deficit prompted Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige to predict that the 1983 deficit will be near \$40 billion. If his projection proves accurate, this year's shortfall will more than double the previous high in 1978. The report from the Commerce Department was on the broadest measure of U.S. trade with the rest of the world, the current account of payments for merchandise and services.

For the first 9 months of this year, the payments deficit was slightly over \$25 billion.

Mr. Baldrige attributed most of the deterioration in the current account balance to a poor export showing.

U.S. exports have suffered because economic troubles abroad have impaired purchasing power. Many of America's best customers, particularly for farm products, are struggling with debt burdens and finding it difficult to increase imports.

The high value of the dollar also makes American exports more expensive than rival products on markets overseas.

Mr. Baldrige held out little hope that the U.S. trade situation would turn around soon.

"Much higher trade and current account deficits are in store for 1984," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

USSR reports record natural gas output

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has achieved record output of natural gas this year with 509 billion cubic metres already extracted and 26 billion more due by the end of the year, TASS said Thursday. The excess gas, some 35 billion over last year's total production of 500.7 billion cubic metres would constitute the largest annual increase in production in Soviet history, TASS said.

Israeli inflation soars towards 200%

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's crisis-ridden economy received another jolt Thursday with the announcement that inflation leapt by 15.2 per cent in November. Experts predicted it would take the annual rate for 1983 to almost 200 per cent, far exceeding the current record of 132.9 per cent in 1980. The Israeli economy is beset with huge balance of payments deficits and foreign debt. Inflation was fuelled by emergency economic measures last October when the government devalued the shekel by 18 per cent and halved food subsidies.

Harvester staves off bankruptcy

CHICAGO (R) — International Harvester staved off bankruptcy Thursday when its 200 creditors agreed for the third time in three years to reschedule its \$3.5 billion debt. The company said its losses for the year to the end of October fell to \$485 million from \$1.74 billion last year. Harvester expected to obtain agreement to sell its Seddon-Atkinson lorry-making subsidiary in Britain to Enasa of Spain.

World Bank to lend Morocco \$115m

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Thursday it would lend \$115.4 million to the Agricultural Credit Bank of Morocco to help finance a 3-year agricultural expansion project. The Agricultural Credit Bank would provide an additional \$226.2 million while farmers and other aid and commercial banks would contribute \$217 million, the World Bank added. The credits would help improve the living standards of about 500,000 farming families and create about 28,000 new jobs.

USSR, Finland sign trade protocol

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union and Finland Thursday signed a 5-year trade protocol for an annual turnover of goods worth some 5 billion roubles (\$3.5 billion), much of it in barter trade. TASS reported, Finland is the Soviet Union's largest Western trading partner after West Germany. TASS said there would be increased emphasis on compensation deals, a developed form of barter trade common in dealings with communist centralised economies. The two sides also agreed to coordinate their production more to each other's market and noted a mutual interest in increasing the supply of Soviet natural gas to Finland by pipeline.

China joins Multi-Fibre Arrangement

GENEVA (R) — China, the world's largest textile producer, was admitted Thursday to membership of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), which regulates most world trade in textiles and clothing, trade sources said. The Chinese application was approved without dissent at a session of the textile committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which oversees the operation of the textiles pact.

Peru to sign letter of intent with IMF

LIMA (R) — Peru intends to sign a letter of intent with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to clinch a standby loan before Jan. 1, a senior central bank official said Thursday. Peru must sign an 18-month standby loan with the IMF to draw more than \$320 million in foreign loans frozen when the country cancelled its 1982-85 agreement with the IMF last October over a failure to meet budget deficit targets set by the fund. Parliament Thursday approved the 1984 budget of 10.72 trillion soles (\$3.64 billion) despite a boycott by most opposition members who charged the budget served the interests of the IMF and not of Peru. The budget's biggest outlay is 3 trillion soles (\$1.3 billion) to service Peru's \$12 billion foreign debt. Parliament passed a tax law on Tuesday to raise \$500 million needed to meet the IMF demands for a narrowed budget deficit.

European Parliament chief sets deadline for rebate freeze

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The president of the European Parliament has given community governments until noon on Tuesday to consider his assembly's grievances before he signs into law its decision Thursday to freeze a budget refund for Britain.

Parliamentary staff said President Piet Dankert's message was sent to community foreign ministers, who will consider the impasse over the British \$6.4 million rebate at talks in Brussels on Monday and Tuesday.

Parliament said the rebate would be withheld until at least the end of March, effectively setting a new deadline for community governments to settle a range of problems threatening to push the 11-nation group into bankruptcy.

The British budget question is only one part of this complex problem. But Britain has insisted all along it will block solutions to other difficulties if there is no agreement first on a fairer distribution of the community budget burden.

Parliament's vote was taken in the face of angry opposition by British Conservative and Labour members. It followed the failure of talks with community governments where parliament tried to obtain assurances of early agreement on overall reform after deadlock at last week's Athens summit.

Parliamentary staff said the vote was the only way left for the assembly to express its dismay at the Athens failure.

Budget committee chairman Mr. Erwin Lange described the government's attitude as sloppy and negligent at a time when the community was extremely short of cash to finance essential social and other programmes.

But the British government and British members of the European Parliament said parliament's action was discriminatory.

The Conservative parliamentary spokesman in Strasbourg, Mr. Neil Balfour, said it was making a scapegoat out of the victim of the community's unfair budgetary system.

U.K. parliament urged to debate Reuters flotation

LONDON (R) — The opposition Labour Party's spokesman on trade Thursday called for a debate in the British parliament on the proposed flotation of Reuters.

Mr. Bryan Gould, a television journalist elected to parliament last June, said in a statement the debate must be held before irrevocable decisions were taken. The Reuters board of directors announced Wednesday it would seek a public flotation. It gave no details but said it would submit the plan to the Reuters trustees for their comments.

Mr. Gould said Reuters should be floated as a public company without any safeguards would be to jeopardise the independence, integrity and worth which have always been the hallmark of Reuters.

He said that in 1941, when there was a threat that Reuters might pass into undesirable or foreign hands, a parliamentary debate led to a trust agreement being drawn up.

"Now we are told that the trust can be broken, and that the safeguards assumed to exist for 40 years can be disregarded, it is unthinkable that parliament should shirk the responsibilities it was ready to assume in 1941," Mr. Gould added.

Mr. Gould said parliament should consider all possible ways of safeguarding the public interest, perhaps even the creation of a statutory corporation.

Mr. Glen Renfrew, managing director of Reuters, in a statement prepared for publication in the company's House Magazine, said: "Preservation of the principles of the Reuters trust agreement has been the paramount consideration in all the discussions leading up to Wednesday's decision to seek a flotation."

Reuters more than doubled operating profit last year to £36.7 million, largely from sales of news and economic services. Some stock market analysts put the value of the company at around £1 billion.

Shippers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and elsewhere in the Gulf have started making arrangements to re-ship mounds of cargo stranded as a result of the problems of the Greek shipping firm Hellenic Lines.

Several of the financial-troubled shipping line's vessels have been impounded in the Suez Canal, New York, Sharjah and elsewhere, leaving shipments stranded at ports around the Gulf.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day for you to start the activities which are difficult for you to plow through during the busy week. Make a list of practical tasks that face you and schedule your time accordingly.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Analyze your financial position by adding up your assets and your liabilities. You may need the help of an expert.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study your appearance and see if you need a new half-do or some new style to make you look more attractive.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be more willing to confront issues squarely instead of running away from them. This will improve your position in life.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Go to friends for advice in order to get ahead faster in your career. The evening is best for recreational matters.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have many civic and career concerns to tend to. After that is done, take time to study so next week will run more smoothly.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Go after information you need to put across a plan you have in mind. Then take a little trip. Make sure to drive carefully.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be more willing to do what the one you love desires of you and be happier. Avoid that temptation to over-spend; you'll regret it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Contact those you want to associate with in the days ahead; make plans together. Use care in driving and in speech.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Begin activities that can improve your weekly routine. Cooperate with fellow workers. Go shopping.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Work out details of recreational plans so that all will go well later. Tend to the desires of your loved one. Do last-minute shopping.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Ideal day to spend time at home and get everything well organized. Entertain close friends in the evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get shopping done early and buy gadgets that will be helpful in your work. Call on friends tonight. Drive with care.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be someone who is very magnetic and could get spoiled and not want to study or work but simply get by on looks unless you teach to become ambitious and know the joy of accomplishment. Include languages in schooling.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

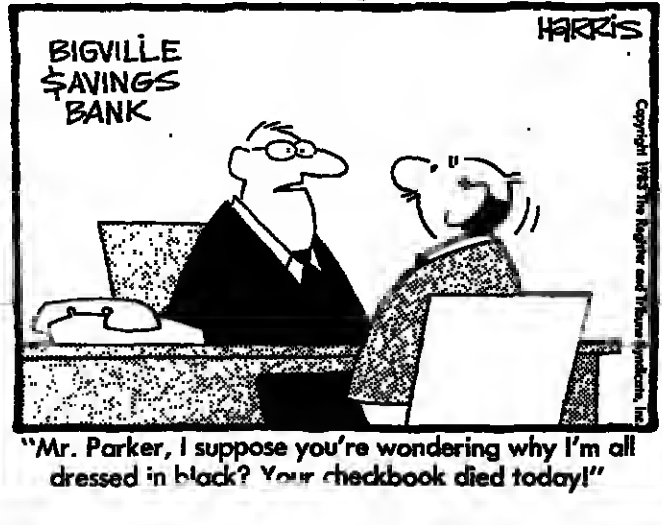
LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.417888	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.249699	Canadian dollars
	2.770515	West German marks
	3.110010	Dutch guilders
	2.213040	Swiss francs
	56.4449	Belgian francs
	8.470030	French francs
	1678.50/679.50	Italian lire
	235.3045	Japanese yen
	8.12701300	Swedish crowns
	7.80508100	Norwegian crowns
	10.032575	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	381.75/381.25	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NORST	ASAIL	LAISOR	SOXEEP
□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ □ □

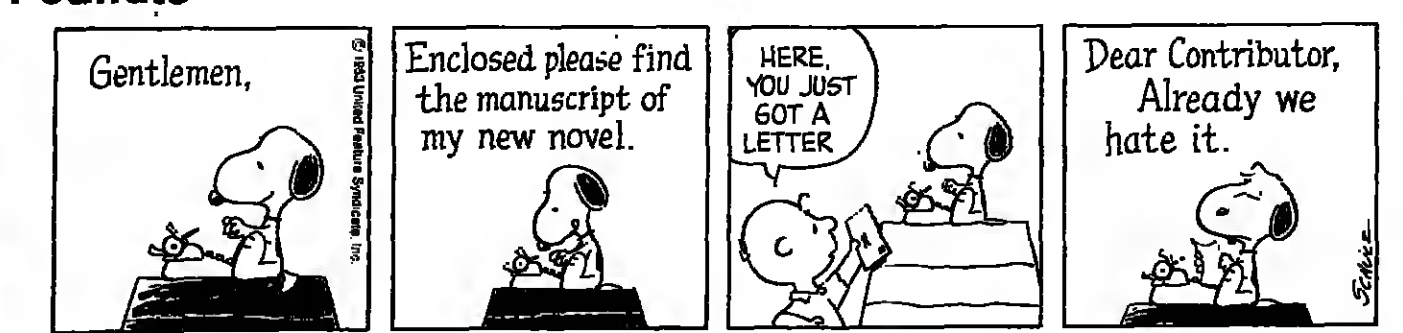
IT WAS HIS LAST MEAL, BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

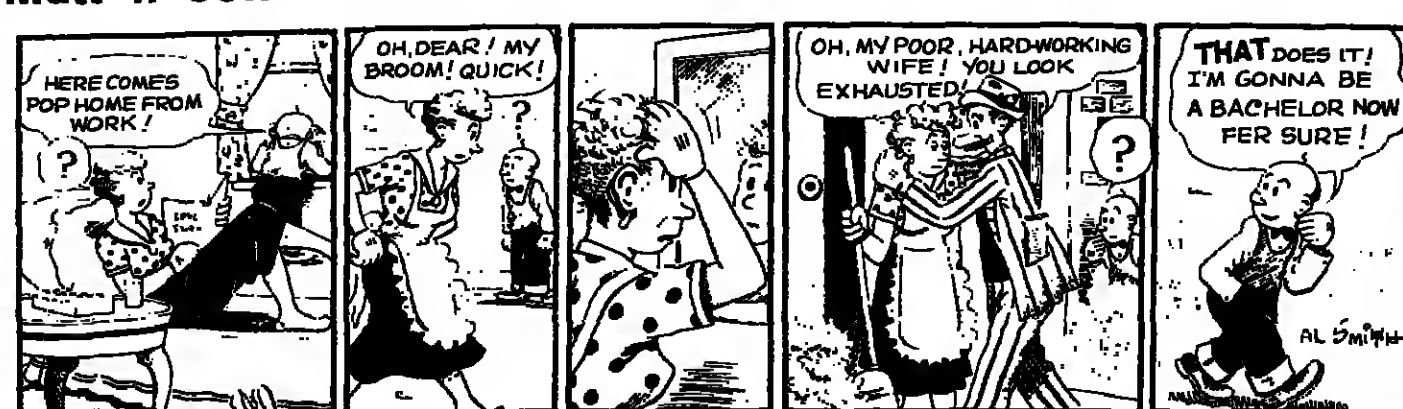
Answer: HOW THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLOOR AFTER GALLEY BAFFLE
Answer: He decided to retire after his performances began to do this — FALL OFF

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



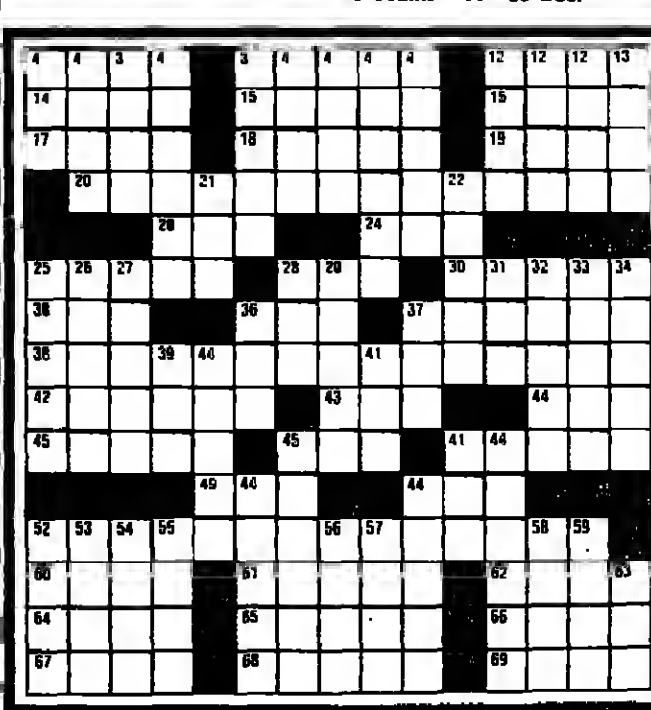
Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword

by Joet D. Latargue

ACROSS	30 Neck parts	60 "Thereby hangs a..."	26 Unaided
1 Replacement	35 Shade tree	61 Not live	27 Hit, Bible-
4 sliver	36 "— of Me"	62 "Harold's"	28 Ziegfeld
5 Bifurcates	37 Had aspira-	author	29 Flew to wed
10 Farm unit	38 Bird of	84 Sale	31 Curve
14 Stoma	song	stipulation	32 Stud, e.g.
15 Think the	42 Involve	55 Eaten away	33 Turn inside
world of	43 Salary	66 Furbish	out
18 Horse of	44 "To — is	anew	34 Crowd
old TV	human"	67 Location	together,
17 US native:	45 Detroit's	68 Passover	old style
abbr.	Della	meal	36 Juol
18 Cronus, e.g.	46 Murphy,	69 Place for	37 Trenchcoat
19 UMW word	tor one	a patella	wearer
20 Gotham's	47 Borgnine	DOWN	39 "— Rhein-
heroes	role	1 Resort	gold"
23 A Linden	49 Trevino	2 Toothed	40 Word on a
24 Half a fly	51 Picnic	crasher	triangular
25 Impudent	52 Sideshow	3 Surface	sign
28 Shiner's	performer	4 Rankings	41 June
headpiece		5 Deadly	celebrant
		6 Norsa god	48 Warning!
		7 Church	47 L-P go-
		tribunal	between
		8 "Scruples"	48 "Men —"
		author	50 Colorado
		9 Excites	park
		10 Magazine	51 Birch tree
		contents	52 Deps.
		11 Baby bed	53 Stinger
		12 Guido the	54 Mishmash
		painter	55 Part of
		13 Elysium	R and R
		21 Month	56 Two peas
		22 Item on a	in —
		French	57 — majesty
		budget	58 50-50
		25 Seamstress	59 Harasa
			63 Deer



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WORLD

Karate expert foils knife attack on Japan's Quixotic candidate

TOKYO (R) — A man with a mountaineer's knife tried to attack an anti-corruption candidate opposing powerful former Prime Minister Kakei Tanaka in Japan's general election.

Police said the man lunged towards Akiyuki Nosaka, a novelist-turned-politician, who was campaigning in the marketplace of Nagasaki in western Japan Thursday.

One of Mr. Nosaka's campaign helpers, a former karate fighter, seized the attacker just as he was pulling the knife out of a paper bag, police said.

Police hustled the man off for questioning. Later they identified him as a precious metal dealer from outside the area and said he belonged to an extreme right-wing organisation.

Mr. Nosaka, a 58-year-old author, has been dubbed the "Don Quixote of Japan" for his seemingly hopeless campaign to oust Mr. Tanaka as a Member of Parliament for the third district of Niigata prefecture.

Niigata voters are still fiercely loyal to Mr. Tanaka, despite his conviction in October for taking a \$2 million bribe from Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. They remember the area when he was in office.

Commentators have described Mr. Nosaka, who is standing as an independent, as a political kamikaze pilot for looming head-on battle with the man they call Japan's "kingmaker".

Police said the assailant, aged about 40, admitted to interrogators that he wanted to wound Mr. Nosaka. "I seemed to me he wanted to kill me," Mr. Nosaka told a press conference.

Elsewhere in Japan, campaigning was non-violent but noisy as the Sunday polling date

approached.

A further selection of opinion polls showed Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's pro-Western, conservative government was likely to preserve a stable majority in the 511-seat house of representatives.

Polis published by Kyodo news agency and by the financial newspaper Nihon Keizai Shimbun said Mr. Nakasone's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) should capture at least 270 seats, enough to control the house and its key standing committees.

The opposition gallery of socialists, communists and reformist centrist parties have launched a common attack on the so-called "money politics" of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) but are sharply split on other issues.

Opinion polls give them virtually no chance of gaining power. Their best hope is to eat into the LDP majority and loosen its grip on parliament.

The main opposition group, the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), is tipped to retain or improve on the 101 seats it held in the dissolved 511-seat house of representatives.

The party has steadily lost support in every election since the early 1960s and earlier this year chose a new chairman, Masahiko Ishihashi, to try to reshape its image.

Political analysts said it had suffered from its policy for dismantling Japan's armed forces and because voters identified it too closely with the trade unions.

But Ishihashi remains firmly committed to a policy of unarmed neutrality. In unusually strong

language for a Japanese politician, even in the heat of an election campaign, Mr. Ishihashi called Mr. Nakasone a fascist and said his policies to strengthen Japan's defences were leading the country to war.

Mr. Nakasone countered the socialist attack by arguing that a strong defence force was necessary to deter the Soviet Union, which has huge military bases north of Japan.

The socialist attitude on defence has alienated it from other opposition groupings, even the small Japan Communist Party (JCP) which views unarmed neutrality as unrealistic.

Nevertheless Mr. Ishihashi says he will seek to put together a coalition government from opposition groups if the LDP does, as he forecasts, lose its majority.

Political analysts said that the second largest opposition party, the centrist Komeito Party, probably stood to gain most from voter disillusion with the LDP in the wake of the Lockheed scandal.

Affiliated to a powerful Buddhist organisation, the Soka Gakkai, the Komeito Party is the only political force in Japan identified with religion. Its policies stress practical issues such as taxation, education and improved social welfare.

Analysis believe the party, which held 34 seats before the dissolution, could pick up as many as 20 extra seats.

Party chairman Yoshikatsu Takekura has campaigned vigorously on the issue of corruption in the ruling party, casting the LDP as the enemy of Japanese democracy.

He told one rally: "In the coming election I would like to see the end of the Liberal Democratic Party with its money-power and corruption-probe politics."



Britain's Prince Andrew, left, chats with actor Sean Connery at a London cinema when the prince attended the Royal Premier of the new James Bond

film "Never Say Never Again." Looking on are Connery's co-star in the film Barbara Carrera, centre left, and his wife Michelle (A.P. wirephoto)

Trudeau fails to convince Reagan

WASHINGTON (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has won President Reagan's general support for his peace initiative but failed to convince him that the nuclear powers should hold an arms control summit.

"We wish to Godspeed in your efforts to help build a durable peace," Mr. Reagan told the Canadian leader when he took his campaign to the White House.

But administration officials said Mr. Reagan, like leaders from other countries Mr. Trudeau has visited, had not endorsed his plan for a summit involving Britain, France, China, the United States and the Soviet Union to discuss nuclear arms control.

Mr. Trudeau has travelled to six Western European capitals, Tokyo, Peking and the Commonwealth conference in New Delhi over the past two months in try to gain support for his peace initiative.

U.S. officials have said Mr. Reagan tends to oppose the idea of summits unless he is certain that they will produce concrete results in line with his administration's objectives.

"You don't have one just to say you've had a summit, because too many people get disappointed," Mr. Reagan said earlier this week when asked about the possibility that he might meet Soviet leader Yuri Andropov next year.

Despite his failure to win Mr. Reagan's support for a summit, Mr. Trudeau appeared satisfied that he had won some measure of backing from him.

He said Mr. Reagan agreed that the Western alliance should not try to gain military superiority over Moscow and its East bloc allies and should recognise their legitimate security concerns. "This is a great step forward," he said.

He also praised last week's decision by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to send foreign ministers instead of low-level officials to next month's disarmament conference in Stockholm.

U.S. may withdraw from UNESCO in '83

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is considering withdrawing from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), U.S. officials said.

State Department spokesman John Hughes said a recommendation on whether or not to pull out would be submitted to Secretary of State George Shultz before the end of the year.

"For a decade there have been serious difficulties with UNESCO including politicisation, budget mismanagement, attempts to restrict the freedom of the press and impose economic regulation," Mr. Hughes said.

Another official who asked not to be named said Mr. Shultz and President Reagan might make a decision in the next two weeks because a calendar year's notice was needed for withdrawal.

The official said UNESCO had become a political forum which sided with underdeveloped countries against industrial nations on world issues and tended to punish Israel by rejecting its archaeological and other projects.

The official said UNESCO also

persisted in considering proposals to create a new "world information and communications order" despite a compromise on the press issue approved in Paris last month.

The Soviet Union and a number of underdeveloped countries proposed press regulations that Western nations and news agencies said would restrict press freedom.

The compromise rejected a Soviet proposal for punishing news agencies which UNESCO believes distort news and called instead for studies of press distortion as well as stressing the need for press independence.

The United States voted against UNESCO's \$374.4 million budget last month on the grounds that the agency was too big and costly. But the U.S. officials said the decision on withdrawal was difficult because the United States would lose benefits such as access to scientific research through UNESCO if it quit.

The United States might also lose UNESCO's international copyright protection if it withdrew, the official added.

Reuters, APP to form new company

SYDNEY (R) — Reuters, the world news organisation, and the Australian Associated Press Friday announced the formation of a new company to develop advanced communications facilities for distributing news and information by satellite all over Australia.

The new company, known as AAP-Reuters communications Pty Ltd., will establish a major new network based on the aussat domestic satellite system, recently given the go-ahead.

The company plans to install its own transmit and receive dishes in all Australian state capitals, plus about 50 more receive-only earth stations in provincial centres.

In addition, subscribers in big cities will be able to receive information through multi-directional microwave networks, while recipients in the outback will receive satellite signals on special small dishes.

The new company's headquarters will be in a \$4-million technical centre now being built in the Sydney suburb of Glebe.

Solidarity calls for demonstration

GDANSK (R) — Underground leaders of the banned Solidarity trades union have called for demonstrations throughout Poland Friday on the anniversary of food riots in 1971 when dozens of workers were killed by police in Gdansk.

The union has urged workers to march from their factories and take part in peaceful protests against the country's communist rulers in city centres.

Solidarity leader and Nobel peace laureate Lech Walesa will lay flowers at a monument to the dead workers outside the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk but has been forbidden to make a speech.

He sent the text instead to Western reporters Thursday. It called on the authorities to revive Solidarity and share power on risk seeing Poland "go from one upheaval to the next."

Mr. Walesa said the country should be allowed free trade unions and courts and have less bureaucratic and political control of its economy.

"Without Solidarity, we will have long years of economic and political stagnation or, worse, material poverty and lack of hope for a better tomorrow," Mr. Walesa said.

At least 45 shipyard workers were killed during the 1971 rioting against food price rises, and many Poles believe the toll was considerably higher.

The authorities were expected to deploy heavy forces of police Friday in prevent trouble.

The anniversary will be an important test of Solidarity's ability to mobilise popular support.

Argentina begins reform of military

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's new government has begun a thorough reform of the armed forces after forcing over half the generals and two-thirds of the admirals into retirement.

It published draft legislation to reform the military code of justice and announced it would give the forces a new set of guidelines, removing internal security from their control.

The purge of top-ranking officers resulted from the appointment of new military chiefs following the installation of President Raul Alfonsín's elected government last Saturday.

The defence ministry named Gen. Julio Fernandez Torres, who is widely respected as a political professional soldier, as new joint chief of staff.

Gen. Jorge Argumedeguy, a moderate nationalist once considered close to the opposition Peronist Party, is the new army chief of staff. His assumption of command Friday will automatically mean the retirement of 26 generals senior to him. There are 49 army generals.

Government sources said Mr. Alfonsín would also seek the removal of several lower-ranking officers closely linked with human rights abuse, corruption and incompetence during nearly eight years military rule.

Conservatives lose edge; U.K. unionists talk tough

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party is catching up with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government in the opinion polls six months after her landslide election victory, according to an opinion poll published.

Another survey suggested that half of Britain disapproved of the Thatcher government's record since she won a second term of office in June.

The first poll, published in the Guardian newspaper, showed that Labour had cut the Conservative lead to four percentage points compared with seven points in November and 16 points in June.

Of those questioned, 41 per cent said they would vote Conservative if an election was called now, 37 per cent said Labour and

21 per cent chose the centrist Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance.

Meanwhile, leaders of Britain's main print union, denied the backing of the full labour movement for an illegal national printing strike, said they would continue to defy the Conservative government's tough new labour laws.

"The dispute is still on," Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association (NGA), said after leaders of the union met at their headquarters in Bedford, central England.

But he acknowledged that a decision on how to continue the NGA's fight for full union membership at a northern English newspaper plant would probably have to be taken after Christmas.

S. Africa on holiday alert

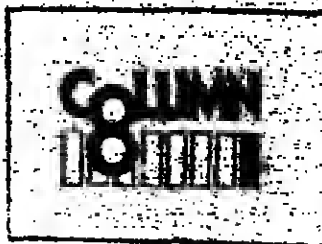
JOHANNESBURG (R) — A series of bomb explosions in South Africa including attacks on three government offices has put the authorities on the alert Friday, a public holiday of significance to both white Afrikaners and black guerrillas.

A bomb went off at regional offices of the department of foreign affairs in central Johannesburg Thursday evening and seven

passers-by were injured by flying glass from the powerful explosion.

Three more bomb explosions occurred Thursday night in the coastal resort of Durban as South Africans began a three-day holiday weekend but there were no injuries and little damage.

Friday is the anniversary of the first bomb attacks in 1961 by the military wing of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC).



British motorist out on a limb

YEovil, England (R) — Police in southwest England are investigating how a bandaged human leg, wrapped in two plastic bags marked "limb for disposal" ended up by the side of a road. Motorist Philip Rose found the leg near Yeovil, mistook the word "limb" for "lamb", and took it home intending to feed it to his dogs, police said. Health officials would not say whether the limb was from a local hospital but said that if their disposal system was at fault they would make every effort to ensure it did not happen again.

Soldier gives lift to 2 detectives

GLOUCESTER, England (R) — Soldier Alan Humphrey chose the wrong car to test his strength — the one he hoisted into the air by its bumper was an unmarked police car with two detectives inside. Humphrey, a 25-year-old private, then smashed the car's rear window with his fist and broke two windows of a police van when he was arrested, a court was told Friday.

Toddler prince meets the press

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince William, 18 months old, next week, stepped out to face the world's press — and decided to make a dash for freedom. The tiny prince toddled off to a garden door in the grounds of London's Kensington Palace only to be led back to scores of photographers by his father, heir to the throne, Prince Charles. William finally obliged with broad smiles that made the front pages of most British dailies Thursday. But the London Times also snapped him in less than regal pose — poking out his tongue.

Weish couple pick bed of nails

BARRY, Wales (R) — Welshman Alan Andrews got up Friday morning claiming a world record after lying on a bed of nails for 12 days. His fiancée Katherine Weston joined him for the final 34 hours and claimed the women's world record. Trained by a former record holder, Andrews, 26, passed the old Guinness book of records mark of 210 hours on Tuesday but stayed out to push the record to 273 hours.

Soviet murderer done in by melody

MOSCOW (R) — A murderer who lived a Casanova's life on a large sum of money stolen from his shop manager's victim has been executed in southern Russia, a Soviet weekly newspaper reported Friday. The man, named only as Zavoikin, 28, posed as a pop musician to impress the woman. After befriending her, he stabbed her to death and made off with jewels and cash worth 9,000 rubles (\$6,500). He then roved from city to city obtaining sex and accommodation from women whom he showered with gifts, but was caught because one woman musician became suspicious when this self-styled pop star got the tune of a popular melody wrong.

Circus camel drowns in drain

MELBOURNE (R) — A circus camel drowned when a lorry loaded with performing animals overturned into a flooded roadside drain south-east of Melbourne, police said. A female clown in the same circus was crushed to death by an elephant at a suburban Melbourne shopping centre two weeks ago.

9 killed in Peru jailbreak

LIMA (R) — Nine people were killed and six were wounded when police firing submachine guns prevented a jailbreak from Peru's biggest prison, a civil guard spokesman said. A police officer, seven prisoners and a man held hostage by inmates died in the abortive escape at Lurigancho prison in a western suburb of Lima, he said. Three prisoners and three hostages were injured.

Labour Party wins Jamaican polls

KINGSTON, Jamaica (R) — The Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) of Prime Minister Edward Seaga has gained total control of parliament by winning all six contested seats in a general election boycotted by the opposition.

The victory, which gave the Caribbean nation its first one-party legislature, came a day after Mr. Seaga said Jamaica would not become a one-party state. He pledged to maintain freedom of expression.

The JLP now holds all 60 parliamentary seats.

Former Premier Michael Manley's People's National Party (PNP) has vowed to continue politics outside parliament.

The PNP had refused to take part in the election, saying the JLP had reneged on a pledge not to

hold elections until electoral reforms were made. It said the use of a three-year-old voting list meant 15 per cent of the electorate could not vote.

With most of the votes counted in the six constituencies, the JLP had won around 90 per cent against candidates from three obscure parties and three independents.

Claiming victory Thursday night at party headquarters, Mr. Seaga said he had never expected to win all 60 seats when he called elections last month, but was satisfied with the 55 per cent turnout and the lack of violence.

"Although some concern has been expressed that the government will not have an elected opposition, there has been complete calm in the country," he told supporters.

Mr. Manley said Thursday he would not participate in any elections until the reforms, including a new voting list, are made. This may mean he will not take part in municipal elections scheduled for next March.

In his victory address Tuesday night Mr. Seaga, an anti-communist, said he planned to announce measures on Saturday aimed at giving Jamaicans a voice during the new one-party rule.

"There will have to be some changes to accommodate the new challenge which we must meet and will meet to ensure the public will have a strong voice and involvement in the running of the country's affairs," he said.

Mr. Seaga said he would swear in his new cabinet on Monday.

'India has own nuclear reactor fuel'

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi says the country has developed its own fuel for a fast breeder nuclear reactor in South India.

She told parliament it was now no longer necessary for India to get nuclear fuel from France, which designed the 50-megawatt reactor at Kalpakkam.

Indian officials said fast breeder reactors that the country was planning to set up could use the India's large reserves of radioactive thorium minerals. The reserves are officially estimated at 314,000 tonnes against a world total of 1,117 million tonnes.

The Kalpakkam reactor is scheduled to be commissioned in 1984 and India had earlier sought enriched uranium from France.

Meanwhile, Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi have called for a halt to the arms race.

A joint statement issued in New Delhi Thursday at the end of Mr. Zhivkov's four-day visit to India, said both leaders had expressed grave concern about rising international tension and called for the restoration of détente.

During their talks, Mr. Zhivkov gave his assessment of the deployment of medium range nuclear missiles in Western Europe and its effect on East-West relations, the statement said.

Mrs. Gandhi acquainted Mr. Zhivkov with efforts by the 101-member Non-Aligned Movement, which she heads, to promote a dialogue on major political and economic matters, it added.

'Indonesian death squads should have stopped'

JAKARTA (R) — The killing of suspected criminals by shadowy death squads in Indonesia, alleged by human rights groups to have been organised by the government, should have stopped last August, Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja said Friday.

In the first government comment on the street executions since a domestic press ban was imposed four months ago, Mr. Mochtar told a press briefing that several foreign countries had expressed concern to him about the killings.

"The official position is that these things are not supposed to have occurred after the president's speech in August when he said these measures had to be carried out within the dictates of the law," he said in response to a question.

"So I will not enter into these polemics by answering these allegations," he added.

A South East Asian human rights group, the regional council for human rights in Asia, said after a meeting in Jakarta last Friday that more than 2,000 suspected criminals had been killed in Indonesia over the past nine months.

Mr. Mochtar said however that the allegations were in many cases unproven and the figures were disputable.

He declined to say which countries had expressed concern, but confirmed that one of them had been the Netherlands.

'1983 bad year for press'

LONDON (R) — Press freedom took a further turn for the worse in 1983 with free speech respected and honoured in only a small part of the world, the International Press Institute said Saturday.

"The rest of the world is gagged," director Peter Galliner said in the institute's world press freedom review for 1983.

Mr. Galliner said the world press watchdog has made more

protests this year than at any time in its 32-year history.

"Most of the Eastern European countries continue to jail journalists and writers, as does most of Africa, the Middle East, South, Central and Latin America and Asia," he said.

"Some do not even bother with the luxury of prisons, some prefer more direct measures like the bullet," he added.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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LOSERS INTO WINNERS

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 10954
♥ KQ104
♦ J4
♣ Q93

WEST EAST
♠ AJ763 ♠ 82
♥ 95 ♥ 83
♦ A8 ♦ KQ10975
♣ 10652 ♣ KJ7

SOUTH
♠ KQ
♥ AJ762
♦ 632
♣ A84

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♣.

Do you know someone who would like to learn how to play bridge? You could do him a favor by recommending "Contract Bridge," by Alan Truscott (Fell, hard cover, 88 pp., \$8.95. Available from Bridge World, 39 West 94th St., New York, N.Y. 10025 for \$8.50 plus \$.75 for postage and handling). It takes a newcomer in easy steps through the initial stages of bidding and the first steps in play. It has a novel method of evaluating distributional features, even though the

end result doesn't differ greatly from standard methods.

Truscott, Bridge Editor of The New York Times, held the South cards in a recent social game. He became declarer in three hearts after a competitive auction. West led the ace of diamonds and, in response to his partner's signal, continued with a diamond. East won and led a third diamond. West discarded a low spade and declarer ruffed in dummy.

Since West did not overcall immediately but only balanced, declarer felt sure that East held the king of clubs. So rather than lead toward the queen of clubs, declarer elected to try for a loser-on-loser play. He immediately led a spade to his king. West won the ace and returned a spade. Declarer won to hand, drew trumps in two rounds ending on the table, and led the ten of spades, discarding a club from his hand.

West won and shifted to a club, but declarer was in control. He captured the jack with the ace, crossed back to dummy with a trump and discarded his remaining club on the good nine of spades. He lost only two spade tricks and two diamonds.